

# BIHAR DEBACLE LESSONS FOR NARENDRA MODI



www.indiatoday.in



NOVEMBER 23, 2015 ₹40

# INDIA TOP



FREE WITH  
YOUR DIGITAL EDITION



#DemolitionMen

# DEMOLITION MEN

HOW NITISH AND LALU PULLED OFF THE IMPOSSIBLE IN BIHAR  
CAN MAHAGATHBANDHAN BECOME A NATIONAL FORCE?



# Smart News FOR Smart Generation

Now on your phone

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD

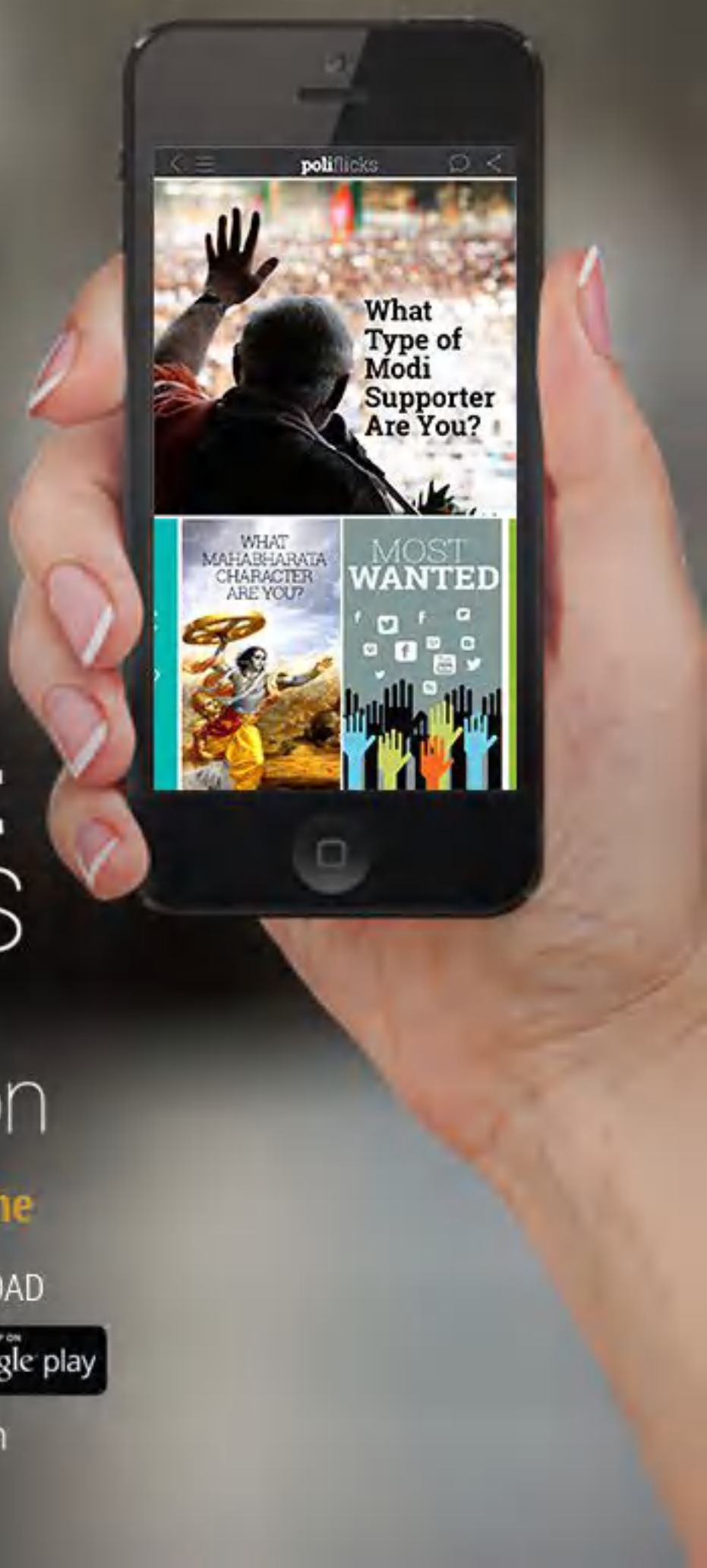


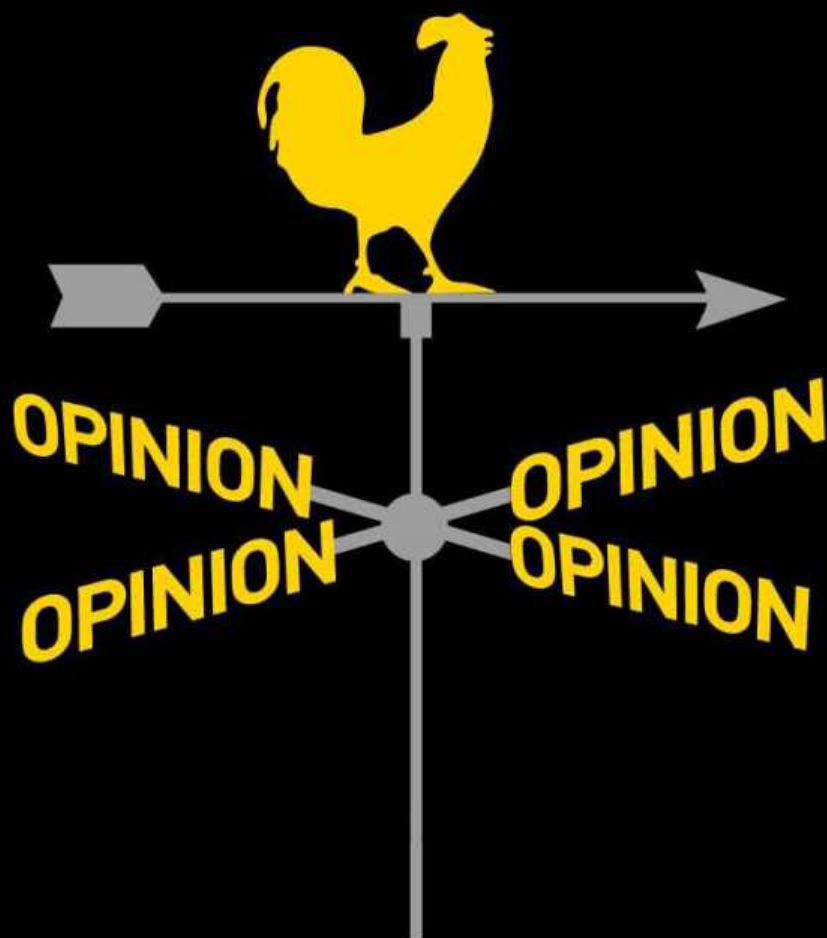
Available on the  
**App Store**



ANDROID APP ON  
**Google play**

[www.newsflicks.com](http://www.newsflicks.com)





OPEN TO OPINION

[www.dailyo.in](http://www.dailyo.in)

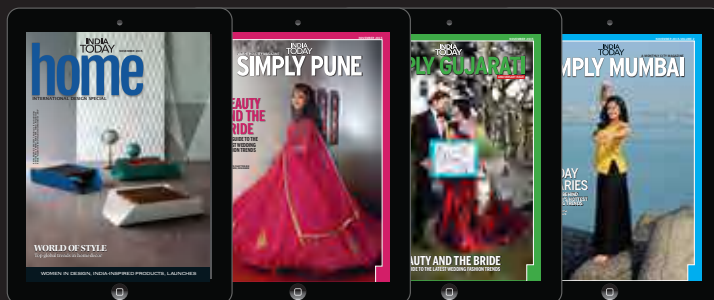


# INDIA TODAY

DIGITAL EDITION



## FREE WITH YOUR DIGITAL EDITION



## EXCLUSIVE MULTIMEDIA CONTENT ONLY FOR IPAD

**BIHAR VERDICT 2015**  
RISE OF THE PHOENIX

**COVER STORY**  
CENTRIPETAL FORCE

**EXCLUSIVE**  
POLITOONS BY INDIA TODAY GROUP

### SUBSCRIBE NOW

[www.indiatoday.in/digitalmagazines](http://www.indiatoday.in/digitalmagazines)



**Editor-in-Chief:** Aroon Purie  
**Group Chief Executive Officer:** Ashish Bagga  
**Group Editorial Director:** Raj Chengappa  
**Assistant Executive Editor:** Y.P. Rajesh  
**Senior Writers/Deputy Editors:** Prachi Bhuchar, Damayanti Datta, Jyoti Malhotra, Kunal Pradhan, S. Sahaya Ranjit, Sandeep Unnithan  
**MUMBAI:** M.G. Arun  
**Senior Editors:** Shantanu Datta, Abdus Salam  
**AHMEDABAD:** Uday Mahurkar **CHANDIGARH:** Asit Jolly  
**HYDERABAD:** Amarnath K. Menon **MUMBAI:** Gayatri Jayaraman  
**Associate Editors:** Kaushik Deka, Shweta Punj  
**JAIPUR:** Rohit Parihar **MUMBAI:** Suhani Singh **PATNA:** Amitabh Srivastava  
**Assistant Editors:** Archana Pande **PUNE:** Aditi S. Pai  
**Correspondent:** BEJING: Ananth Krishnan  
**Copy Desk:** Sanghamitra Baruah (Chief Copy Editor), Kritika Banerjee (Assistant Copy Editor)  
**Photo Department:** Vikram Sharma (Deputy Photo Editor), Chandradeep Kumar, Yasbant Negi, Rajwant Rawat, M. Zhazo  
**AHMEDABAD:** Shailesh Raval **KOLKATA:** Subir Halder  
**MUMBAI:** Mandar Deodhar  
**Photo Researchers:** Prabhakar Tiwari (Chief Photo Researcher), Shubhrojit Brahma, Satish Kaushik  
**Infographics and Illustrations:** Saurabh Singh (Chief of Graphics)  
**Art Department:** Jyoti K. Singh (Art Director), Prem Singh Giri, Sachin Ruhil, Naorem Sanjoy Singh, Vikas Verma  
**Production Department:** Harish Aggarwal (Chief of Production), Naveen Gupta, Vijay Sharma

**Group Business Head:** Manoj Sharma  
**Associate Publisher:** Anil Fernandes (Impact)

**IMPACT TEAM**  
**Senior General Manager:** Jitendra Lad (West)  
**General Managers:** Arun Singh, Mayur Rastogi (North), Upendra Singh (Bangalore), Velu Balasubramaniam (Chennai)  
**Deputy General Manager:** Kaushiki Chakraborty (East)  
**Sales and Operations:** D.V.S. Rama Rao, Chief General Manager  
**Deepak Bhatt,** General Manager (National Sales)  
**Vipin Bagga,** Deputy General Manager (Operations)  
**Manish Kumar Srivastava,** Regional Sales Manager (North)  
**Joydeep Roy,** Regional Sales Manager (East)  
**Rajeev Gandhi,** Regional Sales Manager (West)  
**Arokia Raj L.,** Regional Sales Manager (South)



**Volume XL Number 47; For the week  
November 17-23, 2015, published on every Friday**

- Editorial Office Living Media India Ltd., India Today Group Mediaplex, PG-8, Sector-16A, Film City, Noida - 201301; Phone: 0120-4807100
- Subscriptions: For assistance contact Customer Care India Today Group, A-61, Sector-57, Noida (UP)-201301; Phones: Toll-free number: 1800 1800 100 (from BSNL/MTNL lines); (05120) 2479900 from Delhi and Faridabad; (0120) 2479900 from Rest of India (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.); Fax: (0120) 4078080; Mumbai: 022-66063411/3412, Kolkata: 033-40525327, Chennai: 044-24303200; e-mail: [recare@indiatoday.com](mailto:recare@indiatoday.com)
- Sales: Direct all trade enquiries to General Manager (Sales), Living Media India Limited, B-45, Sector 57, Noida-201301 (UP)
- Regd. Office: K-9 Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001
- Impact Offices: 1201, 12th Floor, Tower 2 A, One Indiabulls Centre, (Jupiter Mills), S.B. Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai-400013; Phone: 66063355; Fax: 66063226 • E-1, Ground Floor, Videocon Towers, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi • Guna Complex, 5th Floor, Main Building, No.443, Anna Salai, Chennai-600018; Phone: 2847 5325 • 201-204 Richmond Towers, 2nd Floor, 12, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560025; Phones: 22212448, 22213037, 22218343; Fax: 22218335; • 52, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700071; Phones: 22825398; Fax: 22827254; • 6-3-885/7/B, Sonajiguda, Hyderabad-500082; Phone: 23401657, 23400479, 23410100, 23402481, 23410982, 23411498; Fax: 23403484 • 39/1045, Karakkatt Road, Kochi 682016; Phones: 2377057, 2377058; Fax: 2377059 • 2/C, "Suryarath Bhag", 2nd Floor, Behind White House, Panchwati, Office C.G. Road, Ahmedabad-380006; Phone: 26560393, 26560929; Fax: 26565293 • Copyright Living Media India Ltd. All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner is prohibited.

Printed and published by Ashish Kumar Bagga on behalf of Living Media India Limited. Printed at Thomson Press India Limited, 18-35 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana) and at A-9, Industrial Complex, Maraimalai Nagar, District Kancheepuram-603209, (Tamil Nadu). Published at K-9, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001. Editor: Aroon Purie.

INDIA TODAY does not take the responsibility for returning unsolicited publication material.

All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only



For reprint rights and syndication enquiries, contact [syndications@indiatoday.com](mailto:syndications@indiatoday.com) or call +91-120-4078000  
[www.syndicationstoday.in](http://www.syndicationstoday.in)

## FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Bihar election was a real zinger compared to other recent state elections. The reason was that there were many important questions that would be answered by its result. After the Delhi debacle, did the Modi brand still have currency? Was not having a local designated chief ministerial candidate a mistake by the BJP? Would the ragtag alliance of former rivals not only hold but stop the BJP election juggernaut? Would a BJP defeat portend the emergence of a national alliance against it? How important would factors such as caste and religion be as both rival leaders had a pro-development image? How would the NDA behave at the Centre in case of a defeat or victory? With Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitting himself against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the BJP was obviously playing with high stakes.

When I landed in Patna in late October, ahead of the third phase of the Bihar assembly elections, the first thing that caught my eye were the giant posters of Prime Minister Modi and BJP President Amit Shah together plastered across the city. This seemed to me rather odd and strategically wrong. Here were two Gujaratis being projected in a state election with one of them quite unknown. Neither of whom would hold office if they won and were fighting a well-established local leadership. As I travelled around the state, I discovered another unique factor. Unlike in last year's assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra that the BJP won, in Bihar there was little evidence of anti-incumbency against the Chief Minister. In fact like Modi, Nitish Kumar had an image of a leader who had delivered development.

The twists and turns in the BJP's poll campaign, which Modi personally drove, defied consistency. It began with a development agenda but then turned towards the politics of cow slaughter and finally lurched in an unexpected direction—Pakistan, where Amit Shah warned firecrackers would go off if the Janata Dal (United)-Rashtriya Janata Dal combine won. Nitish's astute, sharply focused publicity campaign, steered by Prashant Kishor, the man who played a role in Modi's historic win last year in the General Election, helped level the electoral playing field. Ironically, when in Patna I asked both Nitish and Amit Shah about their seat forecasts, they gave me an identical figure: 140 seats. When the votes were counted, they were both clearly wrong.

Our reporting team gives you the inside story of just how Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad Yadav pulled off a decisive victory in one of the most keenly contested state elections in several years and examines whether their Grand Alliance can be the pivot of the Opposition's campaign in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. We explain the astonishing revival of Lalu, of whom I said in 2000, he had more lives than a cat; reasons why the BJP-led NDA alliance misfired; and the lessons from this defeat for Prime Minister Modi.

We first put Nitish on our cover after his party dented but failed to unseat Lalu in the March 2000 Bihar assembly elections. Fifteen years later, paradoxically, we have them both on the cover as allies. That's Indian politics for you, where there are no permanent enemies, only a mutual thirst for power. But here I doff my hat to the astute Bihar voter who has distinguished between a state election and a General Election where they gave the NDA more than three quarters of the seats.

The message to third-time Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is clear. He has to not just deal with Lalu but also steer the path of development and make good his electoral promises. This is what he was voted for. He must not misread the mandate and let his spectacular victory divert his attention to the big prize at the Centre at the cost of Bihar.



OUR MARCH  
2000 COVER

*Aroon Purie*  
**(Aroon Purie)**

COVER STORY

## 10 | Pulse of the People

How Nitish Kumar came back from the cold to neutralise master campaigner Modi and super strategist Amit Shah.



BIHAR—GAME PLAN 2019

## 20 | Rise of the Phoenix

After consecutive electoral defeats, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav scripts an astonishing comeback as Bihar's kingmaker.

BIHAR—GAME PLAN 2019

## 24 | What Went Wrong

For a party that had won 31 of Bihar's 40 Lok Sabha seats last summer, a whole host of things went off beam for the BJP.

BIHAR—GAME PLAN 2019

## 32 | Mind the Mandate

The PM needs to kick-start reforms and bridge the gap between promise and delivery if the BJP is to learn from its humbling in Bihar.

THE BIG STORY  
WATER WARS

## 40 | Bend It Like Beijing

China's increasing willingness to dam up the Brahmaputra in Tibet sparks fears of India losing out in the race for harnessing hydropower.

6 UPFRONT

7 GLASS HOUSE

50 GLOSSARY

52 EYECATCHERS

Cover Photograph by PTI





# INDIA TODAY.in

GIVE A MISSED CALL ON  
**022-6185-7001**  
TO DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

AVAILABLE  
ON



iPad

iPhone

Android  
Phone

Android  
TAB

NOKIA

Windows  
Phone

Blackberry



MOBILE  
SMS SUB NEWS  
to 52424



INDIA TODAY  
NEWSLETTER  
[www.indiatoday.in/snip](http://www.indiatoday.in/snip)

STAY CONNECTED



[m.indiatoday.in](mailto:m.indiatoday.in)



[indiatoday.in/digitalmagazine](http://indiatoday.in/digitalmagazine)



[facebook.com/indiatoday](https://facebook.com/indiatoday)



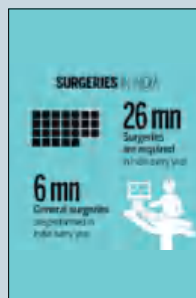
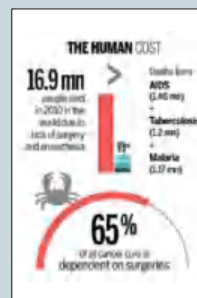
[twitter.com/indiatoday](https://twitter.com/indiatoday)



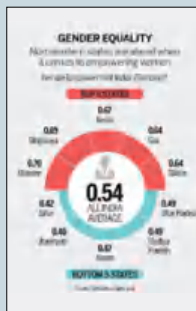
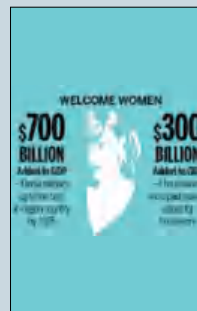
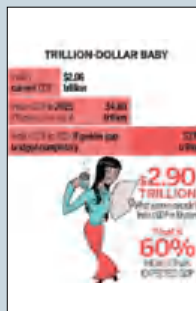
[google.com/+indiatoday](https://google.com/+indiatoday)

## MOST POPULAR INTERACTIVES

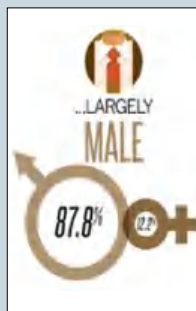
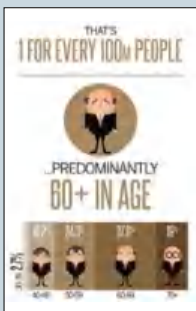
**In need of a doctor** Millions die every year in India and the world due to a shortage of surgeons and anaesthetists. <http://bit.ly/1kkcWjd>



**Bridging the gender gap** By encouraging women at the workplace and giving them equal remuneration as men, India's GDP can grow further. <http://bit.ly/1iNppdl>



**The power players** Dissecting the Forbes 2015 list of the world's most powerful people. <http://bit.ly/1NEaUp3>



## MOST SHARED ON FACEBOOK

PM Narendra Modi declares November 26 Constitution Day	258
Mind-boggling visuals of thunderstorm over Sydney's Bondi Beach	197
Meet the Baidis: The family that travelled from India to France by road!	148



## MOST LIKED ON FACEBOOK

#MarchForIndia: Anupam Kher leads an intolerance march in Delhi	3,504
PM Narendra Modi declares November 26 Constitution Day	2,990
Photo of the day: Deepika with Ranveer and Ranbir	2,729



## MOST RETWEETED & FAVOURITED

Is #AwardWapsi politically motivated?	348
10 times Paresh Rawal's parody account owned Twitter with witty tweets	259
India's 1st ever Twitter Townhall with @iamsrk on @IndiaToday TV	225



## MOST READ ONLINE STORIES

IndiaToday.in website homepage	432,315
Bihar election result highlights	392,840
Cricket scorecard	387,434



# Minimum City

NOVEMBER 9, 2015

The fall from grace of India's most vibrant metropolis



“The essays on Mumbai offered different perspectives on how the city is losing its soul to violence and vandalism.”

VIKRAM MOHAN, *New Delhi*

## Losing a City Called Mumbai

Indeed, it's a great fall from grace for Mumbai, a city which once inspired people to achieve their dreams, irrespective of which religion or caste they belonged to (*The Megapolis That Lost Its Way*, November 9). The uninhibited and fearless spirit of the city has been destroyed by fanatic elements. With consecutive governments failing to check their rise, they have been successful in crushing debate and instilling fear in people's hearts.

KRISHAN KALRA, *via email*

Mumbai has always been different from other metros because of its inclusiveness and its resilience. However, in the past few years, this very character of the city has been under attack from so-called custodians of culture. The murder of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar is just one of the many incidents that reflects the trend. More than the government, the people of the

## A Walk Down Memory Lane



Going through Raghu Rai's timeless photographs, I walked down memory lane and remembered the days when photographers had to work really hard to get that one perfect shot (*Raghu Rai's People*, November 2). Being a photographer myself, I have followed Rai's work for several decades now. While a selfie-savvy generation may not get the essence of the lyricism in Rai's photographs, I feel he is one of the finest photographers we have got in this country. His ability to capture the mood of the moment remains unmatched.

DEEPAK KANUNGO, *Bhubaneswar*

city need to come together to fight such attacks.

M.Y. SHARIFF, *Chennai*

The essays on Mumbai capture the sense of loss felt by the people of the city. Mumbai prided itself for being cosmopolitan and inclusive. Thanks to fascist parties such as the Shiv Sena and the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, the city's secular and tolerant fabric is being destroyed, piece by piece. The BJP, which calls itself a pro-development party, should not continue its alliance with the Sena.

A. SRIKANTIAH, *Bengaluru*

Mumbai became the financial capital of the country because it valued entrepreneurial spirit and hard work over everything else. Whether you are a Hindu Marathi or not was irrelevant. But today the city is losing its spirit and, along with it, business opportunities. The political morass and the increasing environment of polarisation is slowly killing Mumbai.

MAHESH KAPASI, *Delhi*



**www.indiatoday.  
intoday.in**  
THE MEGAPOLIS  
THAT LOST ITS WAY

It is disheartening to read about Mumbai's decline. The government and the people of the city need to work together to bring back the magic.

Sanjiv Gupta

All of us who live in and love Bombay have to work together to make it

the Maximum City once again.

Ashok

We need to go back to the Bombay of the '50s and the '60s that has got lost in the politics of Mumbai.

Pranav

EYEING UNIFORM CODE

I am waiting for the day when women pilots are selected for India's space mission. Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams have already shown us the way.

RR

## Open Skies

The Ministry of Defence's decision to allow women in the combat stream of the Indian Air Force is path-breaking (Eyeing Uniform Code, November 9). When women are taking giant strides in almost every male-dominated sector, why should they be left behind in the armed forces? Inducting women in combat roles will only strengthen the air force.

BAL GOVIND, Noida

The article very well illustrated the stereotypes associated with women's role in the armed forces. It only shows how much more India has to develop in terms of not just equal rights for women but also equal respect for them. Giving women the nod to take up combat roles in the air force is just the first step in that direction.

HENA PRASUN, Ahmedabad

The armed forces' decision to induct women in combat positions is a welcome move. There is no logic in keeping them out in this day and age. Women have proved themselves equal to men in all spheres of life. There is no reason to doubt their suitability to fly a fighter jet. Women may not be physically as strong as men but they bring to their jobs a greater sense of



## People Power Prevails

Beyond the photo ops and the media glitz, the story of Geeta, the 23-year-old Indian girl who cannot speak or hear and grew up in a Pakistan orphanage, is one that shows how superficial borders are (A People's Win over Politics, November 9). Contrary to the monstrous image of Pakistan created by the government and the media, people across the border are warm and caring. As pointed out by director Kabir Khan, the common man there is no different from the *aam aadmi* in India.

VANI A., Hyderabad

At a time when the governments of India and Pakistan seem to have hit a rough patch on dialogue, NGOs such as Edhi Foundation and other social welfare groups in India and Pakistan can be encouraged to open a back channel for dialogue. The Pakistan-based NGO managed to do what NSA-level talks couldn't achieve, easing the tension between the two countries.

PADMINI RAGHAVENDRA, Secunderabad

dedication and honesty, making them an invaluable asset for any organisation.

AMBAR MALLICK, Kolkata

There is really no job in the world that women can't do as well as men. With their natural dexterity, nimbleness and quick reflexes, women will excel in combat roles in the air force. The reasons cited by the army and the navy for refusing similar roles to women are mere excuses. Facing an extreme shortage of soldiers, the armed forces should immediately open their doors to women.

HARSH KALRA, via email

## The Quiet Pact

Your story on the quiet understanding between the two Sharifs, Prime Minister Nawaz and army chief Raheel, provides a lucid commentary on the state of affairs in Pakistan and how the powers that be operate in mutual cooperation (Day of the Sharifs, November 9). The subtle humour that the author uses to bring out the intricate workings of the two power centres—the government and the army—and how the supposed fight between them has served the larger interest of keeping their supporters happy, makes the story a wonderful read.

B. RAJASEKARAN, Bengaluru

## Divided in Defeat

Ram Vilas Paswan has a yen for making and breaking records. Not many forget that in the elections that followed the Emergency, he had entered the Guinness Book of Records for winning from Hajipur in Bihar with a record margin, only to break that record 12 years later. Last week, the Dalit leader played his role to perfection in interrupting another record. This time it was that of Lalu Prasad Yadav, the *de facto* ruler of Bihar for 15 years. As the election results



**STANDING APART: PASWAN BRUSHES ASIDE SONIA'S (R) PLEA FOR SUPPORT TO LALU**

indicated, the family rule of the Yadavs was about to come to an end. With 29 seats in the kitty, Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party holds the key to the state's next chief minister.

This being the arithmetic, the stage was set for give and take: everyone was willing to give, only Paswan was not taking. The JD(U) along with the BJP offered to back him, which Paswan would not even hear of. His refrain was, "I will join hands neither with the communal BJP nor with the corrupt and casteist RJD." He was hinting at a combination that excluded both the BJP and the RJD. In effect, the JD(U) and the Congress along with the Left parties, Independents and, of course, the LJP. Alternatively, he said he would prefer President's Rule to "clear the garbage piled up during the past 15 years".

by Farzand Ahmed and Bhavdeep Kang

March 14, 2005



Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquiries before sending money, incurring expenses or entering into commitments in relation to any advertisement appearing in this publication. The India Today Group does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers of products and services. The printer, publisher, editor-in-chief and the editor of the India Today Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences in the event of such claims not being honoured by the advertisers.



**E-MAIL YOUR LETTERS TO:**  
letters.editor@intoday.com  
**OR LOG ON TO**  
www.indiatoday.in

**FOR SUBSCRIPTION ASSISTANCE, CONTACT:** Customer Care, India Today Group, A-61, Sector-57, Noida (Uttar Pradesh)-201301. Phones: 2479900 from Noida, 95120-2479900 from Delhi and Faridabad, and 0120-2479900 from Rest of India. Toll Free No.: 1800 1800 100. Fax: 0120-4078080. E-mail: wecare@intoday.com



# IN SEARCH OF A NEW TRAJECTORY

When India signed a strategic partnership with Britain in September 2004, it was intended to have annual summits. Admittedly, the calendars of multilateral and plurilateral engagements make schedules difficult for heads of government. Nevertheless, the long interval in undertaking a bilateral visit to London signifies reduced priority to one of India's important interlocutors. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to visit Britain and revive an old tie is welcome—in particular, given the background of the approach towards him when he was the Gujarat chief minister. The British government's interest in forging special ties with an emerging India have been very much in evidence.

A proviso: both countries realise that in a changing world order relationships alter significantly, sometimes irreversibly. The challenge to the leaders is to identify congruences that can sustain the relationship in a new setting. Modi and Cameron begin with an advantage: the Conservatives do not carry the baggage of the Labour Party whose domestic electoral interests in some constituencies lie with the Pakistani diaspora. One needs only to recall the controversial visit of David Miliband to India in 2008-09, followed by a long period of misgivings. By and large, the Tories talk a language similar to that of the NDA. Britain is a permanent member of the UNSC (and has consistently supported India's case for permanent membership), an important member of NATO and the EU, apart from commanding considerable global influence. We need to explore new avenues of cooperation.

Summits are expected to impart vigour to a relationship. The obvious emphasis would be on economic ties. Exchanges at the ministerial and official levels have prepared the ground. The British FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) would be well aware that Germany and France have moved quickly to enhance such engagement with the new Indian government. Trade with Britain has plateaued at under \$15 billion annually. The way forward clearly is investment and would fit in well with Modi's Make in India campaign. We should expect to see some concrete initiatives on the Mumbai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor. The UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) has been somewhat stagnant in terms of outcomes. This is a field in which Britain enjoys a natural advantage in the Indian system. As a jointly funded initiative, this is not an aid programme and should be usefully directed to skill development.

In the political sphere the dialogue should be valuable in a difficult

international scenario; the situation in Syria, activities of the IS would be obvious areas of common concern. Closer home, Afghanistan and Iran would be of particular interest. On global issues we have moved forward on counter-terrorism and cyber security. However, much remains to be done, especially on intelligence-sharing regarding contentious groups with political implications for India.

We must use such visits to highlight the impediments in moving forward. British educational institutions attract a lot of Indian students—the second largest foreign student community in Britain, in fact—but their numbers have been on the decline for a couple of years now on account of restrictions on working in Britain on completion of studies. In general, visa and consular restrictions constitute a serious non-tariff barrier to improvement of the bilateral economic climate. Difficulties for movement of professionals have prevented growth in a sphere of natural advantage to both countries. It is fairly well known that it is Britain's objections that have held up negotiations on the India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) in this sector, while pressing India to accept opening up of legal and accounting services. The political leadership needs to convey a clear message.

There are reports that some groups in Britain may ventilate grievances regarding human rights issues, as also the contemporary subject of tolerance in a plural society. Generally India avoids judgments on internal affairs of other countries. As a long-standing secular democracy, we should avoid being provoked on such subjects.

A word on the Wembley event: meetings with the Indian community are standard engagements for heads of government. With an NRI population of around 1.5 million, this is an appropriate outreach exercise. However, this should not be the centrepiece of the PM's visit. Undue media and political attention to these engagements tend to detract from the substantive facets of the India-Britain relationship. Finally, we must recognise that there are limits to ambitions from such visits. Europe has been facing internal economic problems. Germany is the economic powerhouse, where our mutual interests are the strongest. France is important in strategic cooperation in defence, nuclear energy and space. In the current scenario, India-Britain relations have been on the back burner and need to find a new trajectory, albeit within the parameters of India's priorities.

Illustration by SAURABH SINGH



**India-Britain relations have been on the back burner for too long. The Prime Minister should explore new avenues of cooperation.**

*Dinkar Khullar is a former Indian ambassador to the EU*



## JAITLEY'S SIXTH SENSE

The RJD-JD(U) landslide win in Bihar may have confounded pollsters, but the government, particularly Arun Jaitley's finance ministry, had already braced for the debacle. Soon after the second phase of the Bihar polls on October 16, the government initiated its largest burst of policymaking seen in 15 months. It rolled out a civil aviation policy, a debt restructuring policy for power distribution companies, a review of the IT Act, a new solar energy policy and a gradual reduction of corporate tax from the next budget. These measures were clearly to soften the blow and assuage investor sentiment in the event of an election reversal. Jaitley's statement in a TV interview on November 9 that the government would resort to executive actions for pushing reform followed up on PM Modi's speeches during the Bihar polls that the Congress was stalling reform in Parliament.



Illustration by SAURABH SINGH



## SOUTH SIDE UP FOR SAFFRON

Buoyed by the BJP's impressive performance in the Kerala civic polls in which the party doubled its tally and vote share on November 7, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat wants to revive the party's hope of winning its first seats in the assembly elections due early next year. Bhagwat is to participate in the RSS workers' camp in Kannur on November 18 and 19, in the context of the organisation's recent decision to mobilise Hindus and unite them under the banner of the Vishva Hindu Parishad.



## POWER WEDDING

Lutyens' Delhi is abuzz with the upcoming power wedding of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's daughter Sonali Jaitley. Sonali is to marry her lawyer partner Jayesh Bakshi with whom she runs a law firm, Jaitley and Bakshi. The wedding is scheduled to be held in the Capital on December 7.

## REPACKAGED NATGRID

Another UPA-era scheme is now being repackaged by the NDA government. The National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID was conceived after the 2008 Mumbai terror attack to link all databases of the core central security agencies. The home ministry's internal security division now plans to restart it. But the solution it came up with in a October 16 meeting doesn't inspire confidence. The home ministry wants four sub-committees to breathe life into the project.



## FACEBOOK CONQUESTS



BJP President Amit Shah's personal assistant Rakesh Mishra handles his appointment diary and frequently posts pictures on Shah's Facebook page that show him in the company of PM Modi and other ministers. His choice of one such post has raised eyebrows among partymen. On November 3, Mishra uploaded a photo which showed Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar standing, and Mishra seated at the CM's workstation.

## SECURITY BEGINS AT HOME

Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh is a worried man. The state's deteriorating law and order situation saw two Cabinet ministers' houses getting burnt. When Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh was about to leave the India Today Group's State of the States Conclave in Delhi, Ibobi sought an audience with Rajnath. The two were involved in an animated conversation with Phungzathang Tensing—one of the ministers whose house went up in flames—looking on intently.



## THE WEEK IN...

▶ **RENUNCIATION**

Union Minister for IT and Communication **Ravi Shankar Prasad** vacated his suite in

Madhubani's only decent hotel for BJP President Amit Shah.

▶ **AMBITION**

**Sanjeev Balyan**, Union minister of state for agriculture and food processing, put himself up as a CM hopeful for the 2017 elections by urging the incumbent CM Akhilesh Yadav to make him CM for a day—Balyan said he'll jail half of Akhilesh's cabinet.

▶ **ANGER**

Congress leader **Amarinder Singh** told people in Bathinda on November 6 to "twist (CM Parkash Singh) Badal's neck".

## FORGET ME NOT

Congress Vice President **Rahul Gandhi** has many things to celebrate in the Bihar elections, not the least being his party's tally of 27 seats being the highest in 15 years. He was first off the blocks in declaring **Nitish Kumar** as the next chief minister at a hurriedly organised November 8 press conference at the Congress headquarters.



**FREE FOR ALL** by Saurabh Singh

## POWER CRISIS IN BIHAR.



## FORCED LABOUR

Hundreds of labourers mostly from Bihar were allegedly coerced by local BJP leaders to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's November 7 rally in Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir cricket stadium. Local BJP leaders feared their ally, the PDP, would not be able to fill the stadium with party workers because of a government crackdown on a rally by separatists against Modi. They were proved wrong when thousands of PDP workers were brought in buses from across Kashmir amid tight security. The BJP and PDP leaders swiftly took the labourers out of the stadium.



## TALKING TERROR

Head of Home Minister **Rajnath Singh**'s November-end visit to Beijing, India and China held a first counterterrorism dialogue between the governments on November 4 in Delhi. India asked China to share how it's been tackling a rising Islamist threat in its western Xinjiang province, which officials believe may dilute Beijing's past sensitivities about discussing the elephant in the room—Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Rajnath will use his Beijing visit to impress upon the Chinese India's concerns about both Pakistan and recent Chinese moves to block UN sanctions against Pakistani outfits.



## NO SON RISE IN ASSAM

Assam Chief Minister **Tarun Gogoi**, 79, has limited ambitions for his son, it appears. Dissident-turned-loyalist **Chandan Sarkar**, now a minister in Gogoi's cabinet, had recently declared that Gogoi's son **Gaurav**, Lok Sabha MP from Kaliabor, would be the next Assam CM. Quizzed about it at the India Today Group's State of the States Conclave, the CM shot back: "Gaurav is not fit to become the chief minister. I will be the first to oppose it if the idea is broached."

with ANSHUMAN TIWARI, ANANTH KRISHNAN, AMARNATH K. MENON, KAUSHIK DEKA, NASEER GANAI, ASHISH MISRA AND SANTOSH KUMAR



# SAME CM, SAME CHALLENGE...



... as Nitish Kumar gets another term as the CM of Bihar, the challenges remain the same



## BIHAR HAS SEEN GOVERNMENTS...



# 23

chief ministers  
since Independence

## ... AND PROMISES



**₹1.65**  
lakh crore  
package  
announced by  
**Narendra Modi**  
for the state

**₹2.7**  
lakh crore  
**Nitish Kumar's**  
counter  
package for  
the state

BUT POLL PROMISES  
ARE ONE THING,  
GROUND REALITIES  
ANOTHER

## INCOME

Per capita income



**₹16,801**  
Bihar

**₹74,193**  
India

Figures for 2011-12

## SPENDING

Monthly per capita expenditure

RURAL

URBAN



Figures for 2011-12

## DEMOGRAPHY

Population growth

2.5%



Bihar

1.8%



India

Figures for 2011

## EDUCATION

Literacy rate

64%



Bihar

74%



India

Figures for 2011 (Census)

## SANITATION

Households with no toilet

77%



Bihar

53%



India

Figures for 2011 (Census)

Source: Census 2011, Central Statistical Office

## HEALTH

INFANT  
MORTALITY RATE

MATERNAL  
MORTALITY RATE

34

28



Death per 1,000 live births

219

178



Death per 100,000 live births

Figures for 2013

**Change  
or no change,**  
it doesn't matter for  
Bihar's voters unless their  
lives change for the better





# GIANT SLAYER

NITISH KUMAR HAS COME BACK FROM THE COLD TO STOP THE MODI





CHIEF MINISTER NITISH KUMAR  
GREETES SUPPORTERS IN PATNA  
AFTER THE MAHAGATHBANDHAN'S  
RESONDING VICTORY IN THE  
BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS



JUGGERNAUT. HE SHOULD NOW FOCUS ON FULFILLING HIS PROMISES.





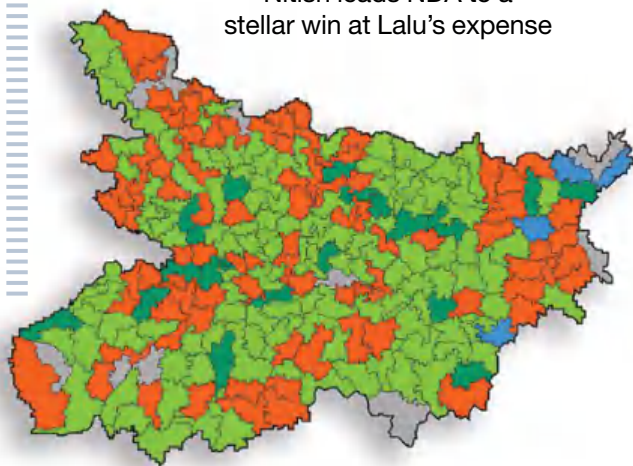
# HURRAH AFTER HICCUP

THE FACE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN BIHAR FOR A DECADE, NITISH KUMAR EXACTS SWEET REVENGE ON NARENDRA MODI A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AFTER BEING DECIMATED IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

■ RJD ■ JD(U) ■ BJP ■ INC ■ LJP ■ OTHERS

## VOTE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

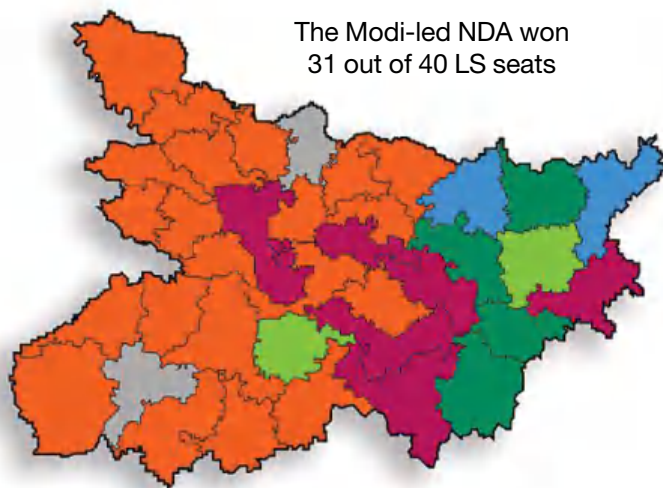
Nitish leads NDA to a stellar win at Lalu's expense



2010

## FORCE MODI ON A ROLL

The Modi-led NDA won 31 out of 40 LS seats



2014

By Amitabh Srivastava

*The one who is facing defeat should form alliance – Chanakya*

Unlike BJP President Amit Shah, neither Nitish Kumar nor Lalu Prasad Yadav are known to be fans of the ancient Indian political guru Chanakya or followers of his political philosophy. But on a hot summer morning in May 2014, when Lalu, coaxed by his daughter Misa, called his friend-turned-rival Nitish and opened his heart out about how the Modi wave had taken advantage of their separate political identities and sunk their fortunes, neither needed to turn to Chanakya for light.

They were not just facing defeat but had already got its bitter taste. And it seemed like the first of many more courses to come. Forming an alliance seemed imperative. But it was easier said than done. The chasm of political and personal differences in a






fiercely confrontational state such as Bihar seemed too huge to bridge. To the credit of the two wily, hard-nosed politicians, they decided to hold hands and swim rather than sink separately.

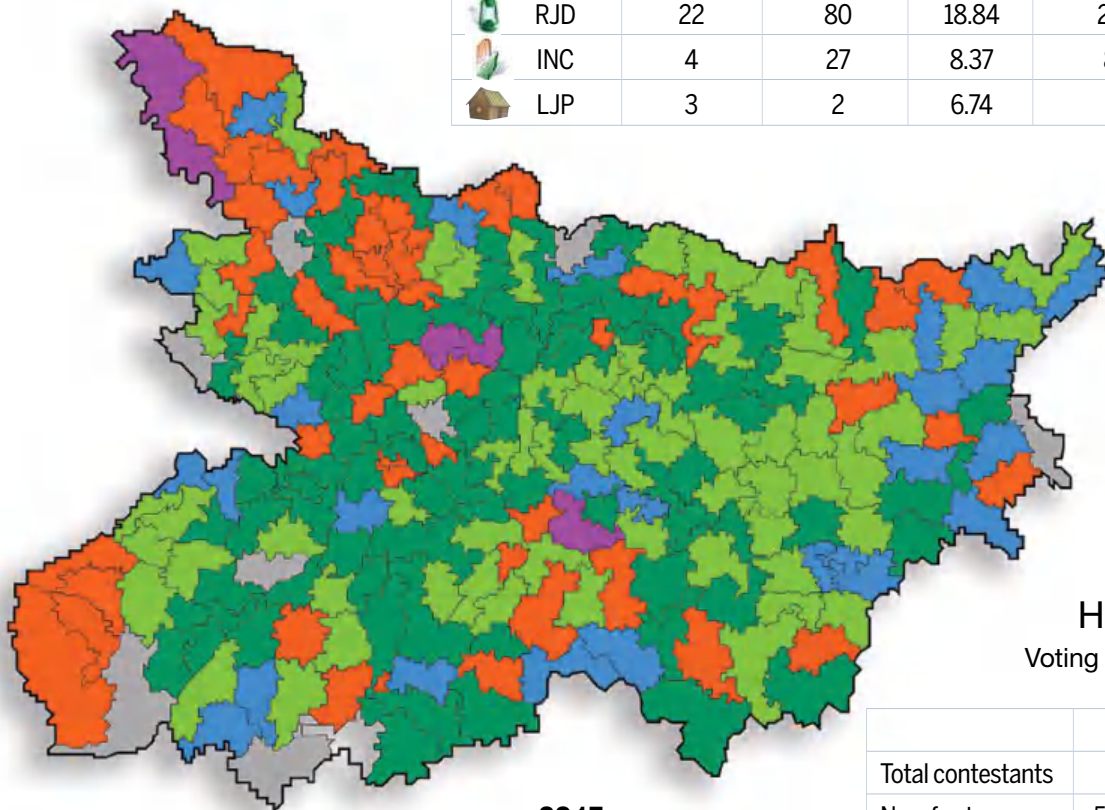
Which is why, perhaps, Nitish was not among the millions who rose early on Sunday, November 8, and switched on their television sets to watch the drama of Bihar's democracy unfold. For someone who begins his day at the crack of dawn, Nitish decided to catch some extra shuteye. He apparently knew that the gruelling marathon he had run, with the help of Lalu, over the last 18 months was not going unrewarded. Besides, he had spent the previous three days seeking feedback from the ground and the news wasn't bad at all. He settled down in front of



## THE POWER OF TWO

Joining hands, Nitish and Lalu decimate the NDA

Party	Seats won 2010	Seats won 2015	% vote 2010	% vote in 2014 LS polls	% vote in 2015
 BJP	91	53	16.49	29.86	24.4
 JD(U)	115	71	22.58	16.04	16.8
 RJD	22	80	18.84	20.46	18.4
 INC	4	27	8.37	8.56	6.7
 LJP	3	2	6.74	6.5	4.8



2015

## HIGH STAKES, HIGH TURNOUT

Voting rose sharply this time

	2010	2015
Total contestants	3,523	3,450
No. of voters	55,120,656	66,826,658
Polling	52.67%	56.80%

Graphic by SAURABH SINGH

the TV with some fried *chuda* (beaten rice) and herbal tea around 9 a.m. And then came the flood of phone calls. The one from Prime Minister Narendra Modi came around 10.30 a.m. Modi congratulated Nitish for his success and said how it was a reflection of the people's faith in his credentials. Victory was sweet. Revenge, sweeter.

It was the same room in which Nitish had watched most of Modi's speeches in Bihar over the last few months and devised strategies to counter the master campaigner. During these months, Modi had crisscrossed Bihar and addressed some 30 election rallies, unprecedented for a prime minister. Nitish had addressed 230 election meetings and Lalu 251. On that day though, those were not

the important numbers. The number that mattered was the astounding combined tally of Nitish's Janata Dal (United) (JD-U) and Lalu's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD): 178 in a state Assembly of 243 seats. When Nitish's phone rang around 12.30 p.m., it was Lalu on the line, and this time they congratulated each other on their stupendous show. Together, they had pulled off what seemed like an impossible victory even a few months earlier. Their Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) had gutted the BJP.

### SCRIPTING HIS RETURN

But if someone had forecast this possibility when Nitish landed in Delhi on a cold December day 11 months back, he would have dismissed it as a cruel

joke. True, his party's new alliance with RJD and the Congress had found a glimmer of hope in the assembly by-elections of August 2014. Their individual vote shares were formidable too. The JD(U) with its EBC, Mahadalit and Muslim base had 16.04 per cent in the Lok Sabha polls, the RJD with its Yadav and Muslim following had 20.46 per cent and the Congress 8.56 per cent. Combined, it made for 45.06 per cent against the BJP-led NDA's 36.48 per cent. But Nitish, more than anyone, knew elections are not mere arithmetic.

Besides, his emotional move to step down after the Lok Sabha debacle and install Mahadalit Jitan Ram Manjhi as CM had begun to boomerang. Manjhi was courting one controversy after



another. Nitish's good governance record and political capital was being frittered away as corruption had reared its head and public disillusionment was setting in. And the assembly polls were barely 10 months away. There was too much ground to cover, even though Nitish had realised that he and his party still had a future after travelling across the state in the aftermath of the Lok Sabha defeat and meeting a cross-section of party workers. The rise of the BJP, on the other hand, was unabated with victories in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand.

Hope, therefore, seemed like a dim Delhi winter sun when Nitish arrived in the national capital to meet a 37-year-old man named Prashant Kishor, a former UN health worker who could claim some of the credit for Modi's incredible triumph in the Lok Sabha elections. Kishor had been Modi's man Friday and had created the innovative, presidential-style

campaign for Modi's march to 7, Race Course Road. As it happened, Kishor had fallen out with Amit Shah and had been in touch with former diplomat and JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP Pavan K. Varma since October 2014 and had expressed a desire to work with Nitish. Varma had spoken very highly about the young man and Nitish had agreed to meet him.

Kishor advised Nitish to return as chief minister, the sooner the better. Although Nitish is not known to have reacted immediately, he seemed convinced as much. Kishor had apparently done his homework on Nitish and was impressed how a leader belonging to a numerically insignificant caste such as the Kurmis with less than 3 per cent votes could command a goodwill that cut across society in caste-ridden Bihar. He had credibility, a record of good governance and the reputation of a performer. His measured personality and politically correct demeanour was the icing

on the cake. And even though the BJP had captured Bihar comprehensively in the Lok Sabha polls, almost 65 per cent of the people had not voted for it and that, for Kishor, was a huge opportunity.

While the political game in Bihar changed with Nitish agreeing to return as CM, unseating Manjhi proved anything but easy as the latter put his foot down and there was a

### THEIR POLITICS

DIFFERED VASTLY.

IF NITISH WORE  
HIS GOOD  
GOVERNANCE  
CREDENTIALS ON  
HIS SLEEVE, LALU  
CARRIED HIS VOTE  
BANKS ON HIS  
SHOULDERS.

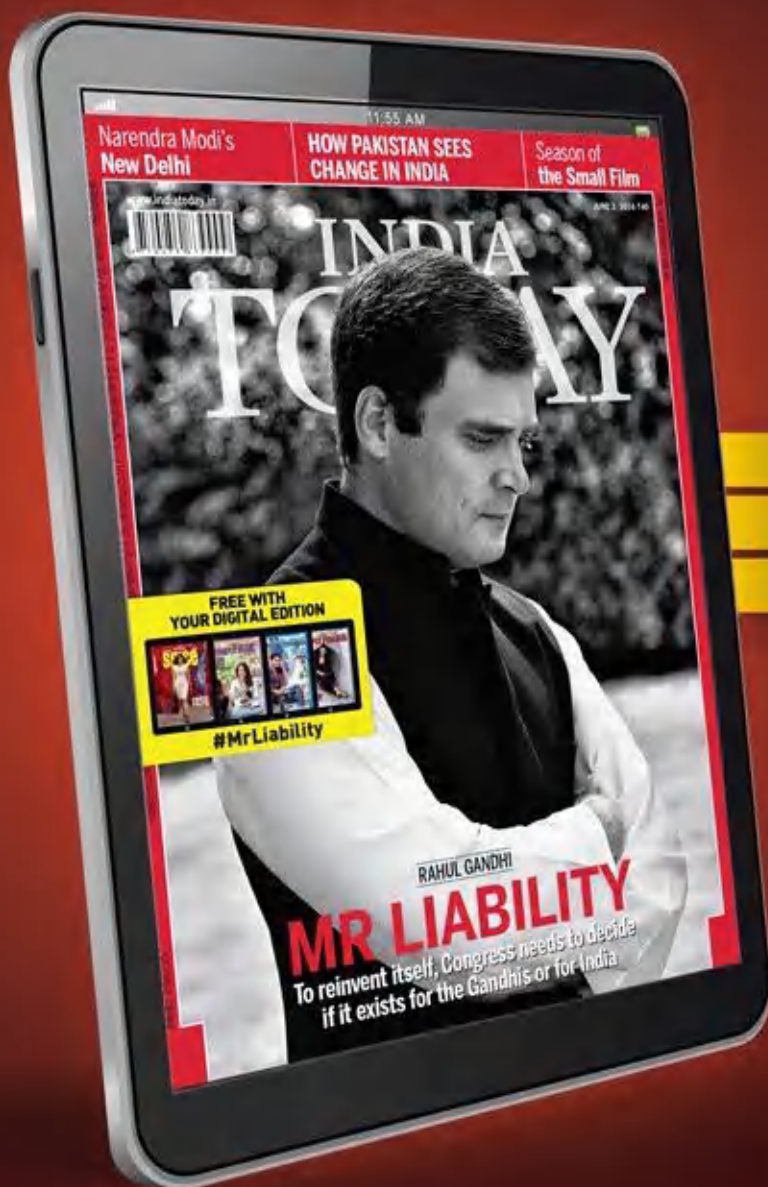
**NITISH KUMAR AND LALU PRASAD YADAV DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE FORMER'S RESIDENCE AFTER THEIR LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN THE BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**



RANJAN RAHI



# INDIA TODAY DIGITAL MAGAZINE



**ANYTIME**

**ANYWHERE**

**ANY DEVICE\***

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

[www.intoday.in/digitalmagazine](http://www.intoday.in/digitalmagazine)

Available on the  
**App Store**

ANDROID APP ON  
**Google play**

AVAILABLE ON



Scan to visit the page







mini-rebellion in the JD(U). With the BJP fishing in Nitish's troubled waters with an obvious eye on the Mahadalit vote, it was February by the time Nitish could reclaim his previous job and return as CM. He had only seven months to mount a campaign to take on the might of Modi and his BJP. Kishor, however, thought it was worth the effort. Since Nitish was to be the chief ministerial candidate, he needed to be in the saddle to show how he could govern and deliver on the ground after Manjhi had messed up. The BJP blunder was to back Manjhi and change its own narrative from good governance to backward caste politics. Also, Bihar knew that it was Nitish who had created the Mahadalit category and showered it with government benefits. The results on November 8 showed that the Dalits and Mahadalits had indeed voted for Nitish.

## FIRST-MOVER ADVANTAGE

Beginning March, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar got cracking. He first picked the energy sector as he knew that like roads and education it would have a direct impact on the quality of life. A quick turnaround meant transmission ability was raised by over 1,000 MW and more than 20,000 burnt transformers were replaced. In a chronically deprived state such as Bihar, it made a difference.

Events gathered pace as Kishor joined Nitish in June and set about marshalling strategy, giving Nitish the early mover advantage. While BJP vacillated and delayed launching its election campaign fearing early fatigue, Kishor and his team launched the Badh Chala Bihar—Bihar@2025 campaign in June. Although it was a government programme, it involved more than 10,000 volunteers who reached out to each of the over 40,000 villages in Bihar to showcase the achievements of the Nitish government and sought people's views on what they wanted in the next 10 years. By the time Amit Shah released the BJP's campaign vehicles on July 16, Nitish had gathered feedback from around the state and that helped him design his campaign better.

Among the other early steps of

Kishor was to buy up all the hoardings and billboard spaces in the main thoroughfares of Patna and Bihar's main cities. New billboards pronouncing Nitish and Lalu were back in the reckoning—and those of the candidates, once their names were announced—splashed with red and gold, came up, with the result that interest in the election began early.



**WHILE THE NDA'S ALLIES SQUABBLED FOR A BIGGER TALLY OF SEATS, NITISH SMOOTHLY SECURED A SEAT-SHARING DEAL WITH LALU AND THE CONGRESS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT TOO WAS MADE IN ONE GO .**

Kishor was not only assuring first-mover advantage. One JD(U) leader close to Nitish says the hoardings "succeeded in creating a psychological transformation in Nitish's candidates. From being a rag-tag, demoralised lot with no cadre worth its name, party members began to take themselves seriously

and so did the people of Bihar. One thing led to another, until the August 30 rally of the Mahagathbandhan in Gandhi Maidan was overrun by people from all over Bihar.

## PUTTING THE PAST BEHIND

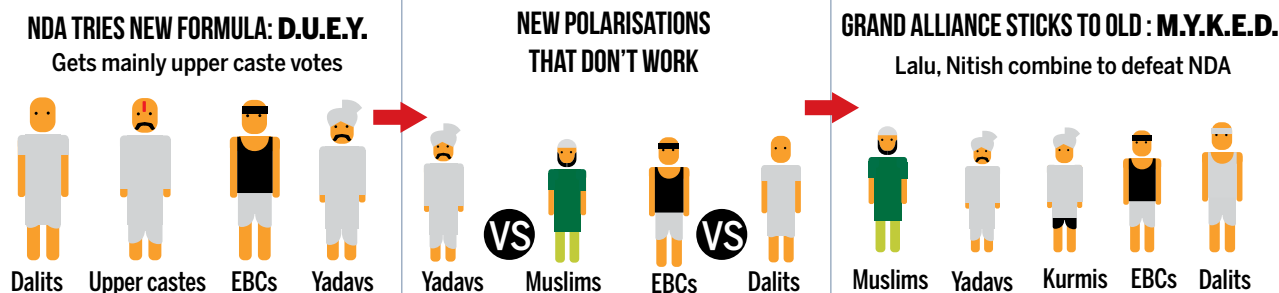
If Manjhi was a political irritant which took some effort and manoeuvring to tackle, Lalu had the potential of being a migraine for Nitish. Lalu, in fact, was the antithesis of a methodical and measured Nitish. Their styles, priorities, concerns and politics differed vastly. If Nitish wore his good governance credentials on his sleeve, Lalu carried his vote banks on his shoulders. And Nitish's inability to immediately take to his former mentor was very obvious. There was more than one occasion when he failed to share the stage with Lalu and Nitish even said he does not work under pressure.

Barbs were exchanged freely. When Lalu first accepted Nitish as the chief ministerial face of the alliance on June 8, he added he was ready to gulp poison. Nitish skipped Lalu's iftar party on July 13 to attend the one thrown by Sonia Gandhi in Delhi. On July 20, when the two leaders were at an event to celebrate former chief minister S.N. Sinha's birth anniversary, Lalu in his 45-minute speech mentioned at least seven times that the Bihar Chief Minister owed his position to him. Nitish wore an impassive face. A day later, Nitish tweeted, comparing himself to *chandan* (sandalwood), which remains unaffected despite snakes wrapping themselves around. But just when it seemed that the alliance was about to explode, Nitish quietly visited Lalu at home and was with him for an hour. And that was the last time they went after each other in public.

As they prepared to get into seat-sharing talks, they seemed to be a formidable alliance that combined Nitish's good governance credentials and Lalu's staunch vote bank. Nitish's masterstroke was to give Congress 41 seats even though it had only five MLAs in the outgoing house. It seemed like a strategic error at that point of time. But in hindsight it ended up unifying the 17 per cent Muslim vote behind the Mahagathbandhan.

# CASTE CALCULUS GONE WRONG

HOW THE NDA'S ATTEMPT TO BREAK INTO THE GRAND ALLIANCE'S TRADITIONAL MUSLIM-YADAV-DALIT-EBC VOTE BANKS FAIL AS BIHAR STICKS TO ITS WEB OF LOYALTIES



## UPPER CASTE vote bank 14-15% of the population

Upper caste stronghold ●  
BIG VOTERS FOR: NDA  
2015: Votes largely for NDA.

## OBCs-EBCs vote bank 51%

OBCs-EBCs stronghold ●  
BIG VOTERS FOR: JD(U)-RJD  
2015: NDA roots for floating EBC votes. Vote bank largely sticks to GA.

## YADAV vote bank 12-15%

Yadav stronghold ●  
BIG VOTERS FOR: RJD-JD(U)  
2015: Votes largely for GA.

## MUSLIM vote bank 17%

Muslim stronghold ●  
BIG VOTERS FOR: RJD-JD(U)  
2015: NDA does not make a dent. Votes largely for GA.

## KURMI-KOERI vote bank 11-12%

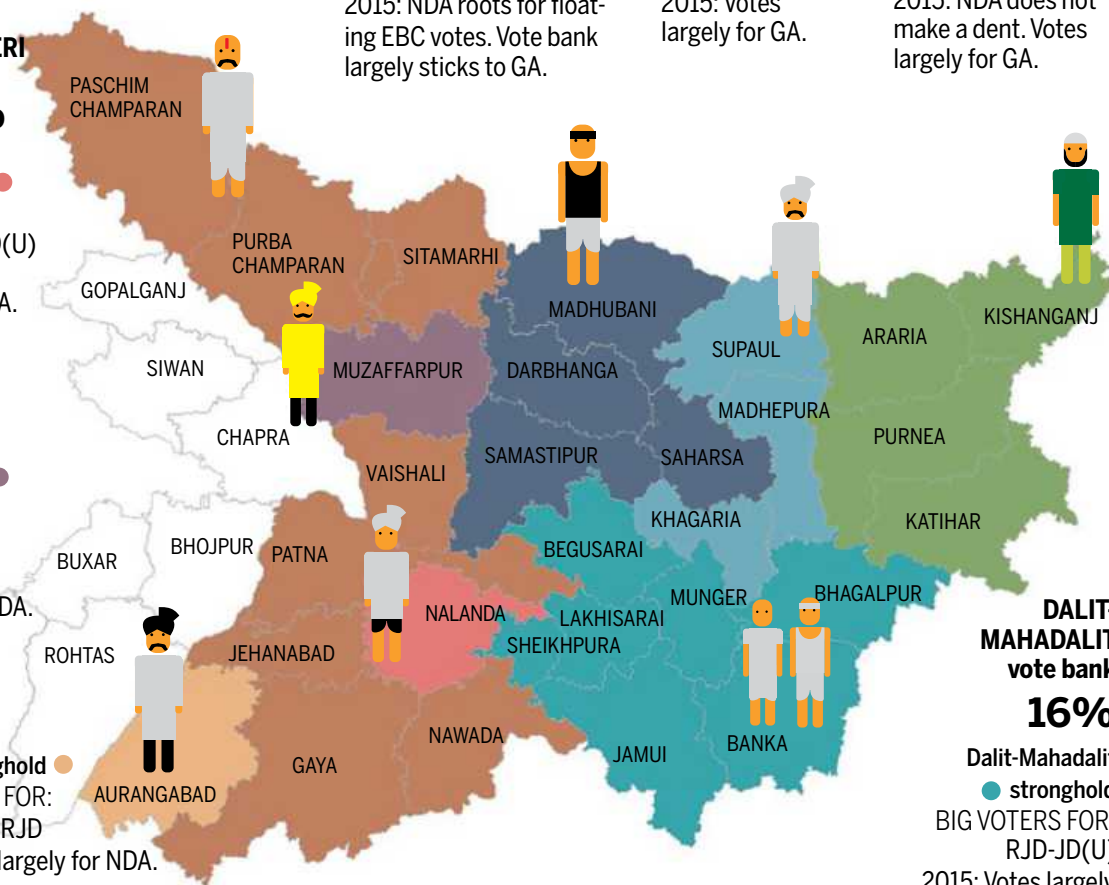
Kurmi-Koeri stronghold ●  
BIG VOTERS FOR: RJD-JD(U)  
2015: Votes largely for GA.

## BHUMIHAR vote bank 5%

Bhumihar stronghold ●  
BIG VOTERS FOR: NDA  
2015: Votes largely for NDA.

## RAJPUT vote bank 6%

Rajput stronghold ●  
BIG VOTERS FOR: NDA, earlier RJD  
2015: Votes largely for NDA.



## DALIT-MAHADALIT vote bank 16%

Dalit-Mahadalit ● stronghold  
BIG VOTERS FOR: RJD-JD(U)  
2015: Votes largely for GA.

Source: Census of India, 2011; National Rural Livelihoods Mission, State Perspective and Implementation Plan, 2011-12 to 2021-22; Govt of Bihar; Lokniti-CSDS pre-poll survey data for Bihar elections from 2000 onwards, September 2015



The big ideas were simple: Lalu's social justice plank would be married with the tried and tested governance plank of Nitish, both intending to empower the poor and underprivileged. Women would be a specially targeted constituency. The Insider vs Outsider approach, "Bihar vs Bahari" would become a catch-all phrase.

Saibal Gupta of the Asian Development Research Institute in Patna points out that Nitish has been a good provider of caste/class-neutral development, in terms of roads, electricity and infrastructure improvement across Bihar. "Lalu, on the other hand, has epitomised the backward upsurge in the state. Fact is, you cannot fight communalisation without the mobilisation of the backwards. So Nitish and Lalu had to

### THE BIG IDEAS

WERE SIMPLE:  
LALU'S SOCIAL  
JUSTICE PLANK  
WOULD BE  
MARRIED WITH  
THE GOVERNANCE  
PLANK OF NITISH;  
WOMEN WOULD  
BE A SPECIALLY  
TARGETED  
CONSTITUENCY.

recreate the Mandal-Kamandal divide of the early '90s," he adds.

While the NDA's allies squabbled for a bigger tally of seats, Nitish smoothly secured a seat-sharing deal with Lalu and the Congress. The announcement was made in one go making the alliance look cohesive. It wasn't easy though. Besides agreeing to contest only 101 seats despite having 115 seats in the outgoing Assembly, Nitish also conceded more than two dozen JD(U) seats to Lalu. In return, he got only one such seat from Lalu although several JD(U) candidates were accommodated in the Congress.

In another strategic masterstroke, Nitish ensured that he and Lalu campaigned vigorously for each other's candidates. They also held campaign meetings for Congress candidates,

RAM VILAS PASWAN, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, SUSHIL KUMAR MODI AND RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD AT A RALLY IN BHAGALPUR







(LEFT) PRASHANT KISHOR, WHO CRAFTED JD(U)'S CAMPAIGN STRATEGY; A CAMPAIGN BILLBOARD OF NITISH KUMAR IN PATNA



SONU KISHAN

## CATCHY LINES AND

PHRASES LIKE  
'JUMLA BABU' FOUND  
RESONANCE AMONG  
THE VOTERS.

and thus successfully conveyed that the coalition was intact. It created an impression that the Nitish-led coalition could run a government as smoothly as the election campaign. As it turned out, Lalu and Nitish were able to ensure a near complete transfer of votes between the alliance partners.

Nitish's innate composure won him support as he didn't seem shaken by the BJP's campaign which seemed to get acerbic, shrill, scathing and divisive as the occasion demanded. Even when Nitish counterattacked, he questioned Modi's unfulfilled promises. He played audio tapes of the unfulfilled promises BJP leaders had made during the Lok Sabha campaign. The Mahagathbandhan was also quick to seize RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comment about the need for a relook at caste quotas. Apart from the two million WhatsApp messages that were sent claiming the RSS-BJP planned to do away with quotas, Kishor saw to it that each rally of Nitish and Lalu was leaflet-bombed with aggressive messages printed on them. He also ensured that after every Modi and Amit Shah rally, either Lalu or Nitish would hold a rally in the vicinity, within 24-48 hours. The idea was to counter the messages Modi and Shah had unleashed with ideas of their own.



RANJAN RAHI

And then there were catchy lines and phrases like 'jumla babu'—or someone whose promises are empty slogans—for Modi.

## BIHAR'S VERY OWN YOUTH ICON

Nitish knew Modi had been attracting massive crowds at his election meetings and those clapping loudly to Modi's promises were young voters. The BJP promises of giving them colour TV sets and scooties did not matter against Nitish's vision document. The youth in Nitish's meetings clapped loudly when he promised to give them free spoken English training. He knew the pulse of Bihar's youth—31 per cent of the population is under 30 years of age—and his strategy worked.

In fact, on an average, Bihar had nearly 85,000 under-30 voters in each of the 243 seats. In a bipolar election such as this one—unlike the 2014 Lok Sabha polls when the JD(U), CPI, Congress-RJD and NDA fought a three-pronged election—Nitish won his maximum support from the youth. Besides, Bihar also has nearly 2.5 million first-time voters of 18 to 19 years of age. Born at least six years after the Mandal wave changed the political narrative of the Hindi heartland, these voters had no memory of the Lalu-Rabri RJD government. So the allegations of Jungle

Raj did not trouble them since they had already seen Nitish as their chief minister for most of the decade that followed. To top it all, many of them were young women who were school students when Nitish first introduced the CM's cycle scheme. They voted overwhelmingly for Nitish and he rode home to victory.

As Nitish embarks on a new term to govern Bihar, he would do well to remember the thorny path he walked to victory and the rainbow groups that backed him so overwhelmingly. The skills he and Lalu displayed in dealing with each other and everything the NDA threw at them will continue to be in demand as they negotiate power and its pitfalls. It will be up to the political veterans to safeguard and strengthen the mandate they have received or squander it through short-sightedness. Nitish seems to realise that, as he told INDIA TODAY, "it was a people's mandate, we are humbled. I have to work hard to take Bihar to the next level of development". For now though, he and Lalu can afford to bask in the glory of their Maha victory.

with Jyoti Malhotra

Follow the writer on Twitter @Amitabh1975



To tweet on this story, use  
#DemolitionMen



BIHAR VERDICT 2015

# RISE OF THE PH

LALU PRASAD YADAV WITH HIS SONS TEJ PRATAP  
AND TEJASWI (LEFT) AT AN ELECTION RALLY  
IN VAISHALI DISTRICT, BIHAR



TAP TO WATCH VIDEO





# OENIX

RJD CHIEF LALU PRASAD YADAV SCRIPTS AN ASTONISHING COMEBACK AS BIHAR'S KINGMAKER. THE BIG QUESTION: WILL HE BE A BOON OR BANE FOR NITISH?

By Amitabh Srivastava



Even before counting for the Bihar assembly elections began on Sunday morning, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav furiously paced the lawn of his sprawling 10 Circular Road residence in Patna. He eschewed his favorite perch, a rattan chair on the verandah, from where he usually watches TV. “Each time I sat down to watch the results, I lost,” he told bemused mediapersons. The superstition is understandable. He had sustained successive electoral defeats over the past decade. Few leaders have had as many epitaphs written on them as Lalu Prasad has. The final nail in the coffin of his political career, it would seem, was the conviction by a special CBI court in Ranchi in September 2013 for fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 37.7 crore from the Chaibasa treasury.

The conviction saw him being sentenced to prison for five years, stripped of his parliamentary seat and consequently held ineligible to contest elections for the next six years.

But Lalu kept walking. The evening before counting began in Patna, he lounged on the rattan chair to predict 190 seats for RJD’s Grand Alliance with Nitish Kumar’s Janata Dal (United). Both parties contested 101 seats each and had given 41 seats to the Congress. Lalu had a few anxious moments when TV channels handed the elections to the NDA. He frantically dialled Nitish’s Man Friday. “What’s going on Prashant ji (Prashant Kishor)?” The answer calmed him. He smiled and said, “These are fake trends.”

By noon, it was clear. The Grand Alliance had swept the polls with 178 seats and Lalu’s RJD bagging the most, 80 seats. It was an astounding comeback. But the only certitude in the Lalu Prasad story is his extraordinary ability to bounce back. The 67-year-old

battled a heart condition—he underwent an aortic valve surgery last August—and campaigned like a man possessed and addressed 251 public meetings. It was the largest number of meetings addressed by a politician in the battle for Bihar and 20 more than Nitish.

“He has truly emerged as the kingmaker of Bihar,” his BJP opponent Sushil Kumar Modi conceded on Sunday in Patna. “Nitish and Lalu have stitched together a bigger social base than ours.”

The comeback, however, was not easy. Lalu had to swallow his pride when he accepted Nitish as the chief ministerial face of the alliance to fight the Bihar elections in June this year. It was the first time in over two decades that he was playing second fiddle to another state politician. But this astute decision was born out of necessity. Lalu never recovered Bihar after losing it to Nitish in 2005 (*see timeline*). In 2015, Lalu had his back to the wall with nothing more to lose.

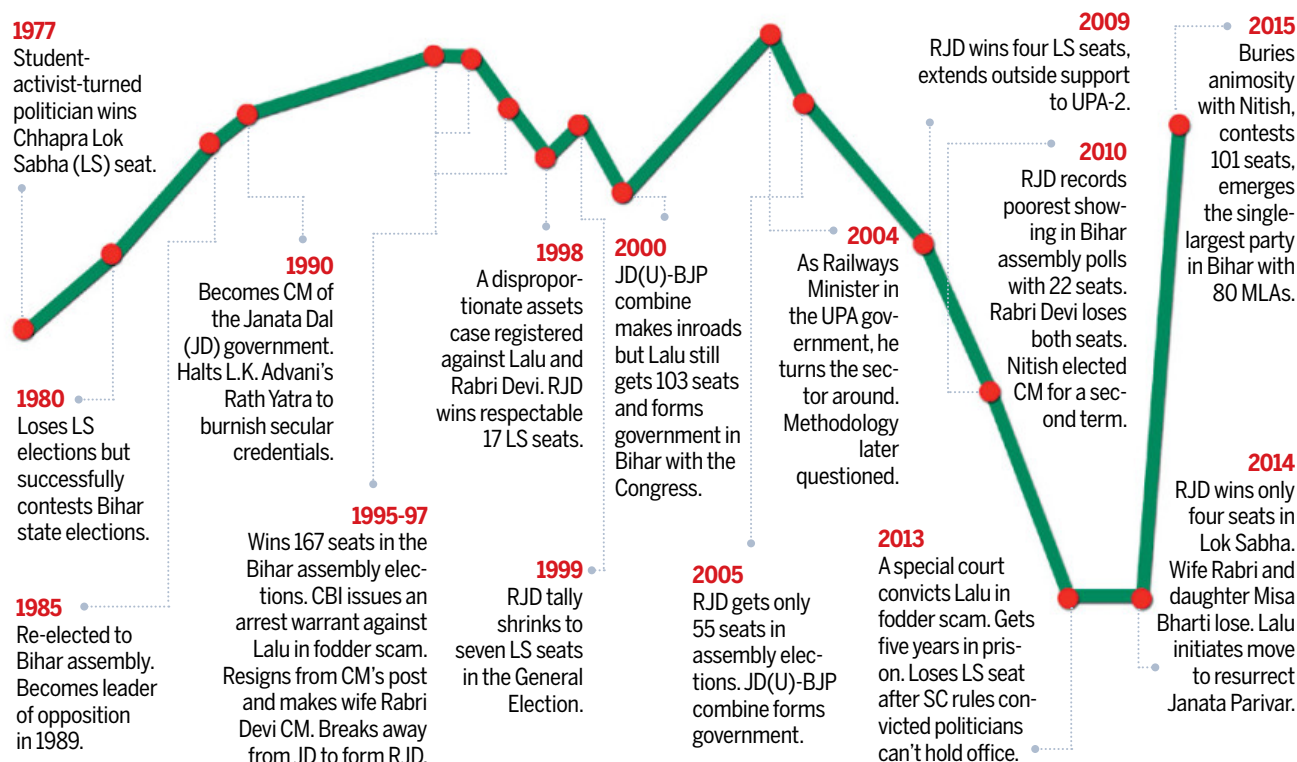
The RJD chief rightly assumed that his Yadav votebank, although formidable, was meaningless without the support of other caste groups. The alliance with Nitish worked as Lalu’s caste-based vote bank allied with Nitish’s caste-neutral support base to notch up a two-thirds majority in Bihar.

This strategy was completely lost on the BJP. The Lalu-Nitish alliance, BJP leaders insisted, was incompatible because the two leaders did not address joint meetings. What they missed was that both were addressing separate meetings to win over different social sections. Lalu with his aggressive pro-backward appeal had consolidated the traditional Muslim-Yadav support base, while Nitish with his record of clean governance won the remaining sections over with his pro-development approach. Lalu never



FROM JAIL TO BAIL:  
LALU'S MAGIC LANTERN

At the heart of the RJD's victory, a resilient OBC leader who has weathered political storms over the past three decades



forgot to mention Nitish Kumar as the alliance's chief ministerial face. The Lalu-Nitish vote banks merged and it was Lalu's RJD that reaped the biggest windfall. Not only did Lalu ensure victories for his sons Tej Pratap and Tejaswi, but his party won nine seats more than Nitish's JD(U).

The sustained pro-backward aggression helped Lalu thwart the BJP's efforts to puncture his Yadav vote bank. The BJP's Ram Kripal Yadav and Nand Kishore Yadav drew a blank. Expelled RJD MP Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party fielded candidates in 64 but failed to win a seat. Lalu's biggest feat was his ability to transfer his votes to Nitish's candidates, a task easier said than done.

Lalu made an instrumental contribution just before the first phase of polling by aggressively attacking RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement calling for a review of caste-based reservations. The statement helped him and Nitish consolidate the backward

castes and Dalits against the BJP.

Lalu's stance on reservation was so effective that it even caught the BJP flat-footed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi who vowed to protect reservations with his life on October 26 at a campaign meeting in Buxar district failed to convince the backward castes. The BJP's sustained claim that it would pitch a backward chief minister, while projecting Modi as a backward protagonist, failed too. Lalu was also aided by the fact that the BJP-led NDA had given more than 90 seats to upper caste nominees.

But where does Lalu go from here? Although Lalu and Nitish have perfectly complemented each other in this election, there is an apprehension that with his new-found clout as the chief of Bihar's single-largest party, the RJD boss may drive the Nitish government from the backseat. But, Lalu so far has done everything to scotch this speculation. "I have maintained, irrespective of the number of seats that we win,

Nitish Kumar will be the chief minister," Lalu said in Patna on Sunday.

The RJD chief has not missed the message in the mandate—a last chance to remain relevant. Unlike his premature declaration in the run-up to the election about his sons being a part of the government—the CM's prerogative—Lalu has maintained a diplomatic silence on the issue.

Lalu is sure to have a huge influence in the next government in Bihar. But the RJD leader is careful to project a hands-off approach. "We campaigned like one party. It will be our government. We are not fools to squander the mandate," Lalu said.

But, Lalu is irrepressible. He has promised to allow Nitish run a stable government even as he tours the country to create instability in the Delhi Durbar. "I am going to make things difficult for Modi in times to come." Knowing him, it is a promise he is sure to keep.

Follow the writer on Twitter @Amitabh1975

# STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Business Today now available on iPad, iPhone,  
Android, Kindle Fire, PC & Mac



**Subscribe Now**

[WWW.BUSINESSTODAY.IN/DIGITALMAGAZINE](http://WWW.BUSINESSTODAY.IN/DIGITALMAGAZINE)

Tap to download & subscribe



**business today**  
FOR MANAGING TOMORROW



AMIT SHAH: DID HE  
PACK THE CAMPAIGN  
TEAM WITH TOO MANY  
OUTSIDERS'?



# WHAT WENT WR

FOR A PARTY THAT HAD WON 31 OF BIHAR'S 40 LOK SABHA SEATS LAST SUMMER, A WHOLE HO  
A TERRIBLE MISCALCULATION, ILL-ADVISED STRATEGY, OVER-DEPENDENCE ON PM MODI, AND



By Amitabh Srivastava and Uday Mahurkar

**D**ays before the third phase of the Bihar assembly polls on October 28, during a closed-door meeting of Dalit party workers, one BJP member had apprised party chief Amit Shah of the issue that many are now discussing openly. That RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's publicly aired views on reservation were "hurting" the BJP. Shah looked surprised, but only briefly. As if on cue, every person in the room joined in, questioning the RSS Sarsanghchalak's wisdom in calling for a review of the reservation policy when significant sections of the state's voters, besides Dalits, benefitted from it. A visibly worried Shah and his team tried hard to orchestrate an alternative rhetoric, including pencilling vehement proclamations into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's poll speeches that he would protect quotas at every cost. But coming as all this did, after a third (81) of the state's 243 assembly constituencies had already voted, it was clearly too late to work.

Stoking fears amid the numerical-dominant backward and Dalit sections that the BJP planned to snatch away reservations at every campaign meeting, the Grand Alliance milked the quota controversy to capacity. The Grand Alliance's campaign strategists, led by former Modi aide Prashant Kishor and his tech-savvy team, were quick to spread a most damaging spin on Bhagwat's words through more than 20 lakh messages on WhatsApp, besides a flood of posts on Facebook and other social media outlets. There are an estimated 6 crore mobile phones in the state, the same as the number of voters. The alliance also printed lakhs of leaflets with aggressive counter-messaging. "Wherever Lalu Prasad went to address rallies, we pumped in tens of hundreds of leaflets showcasing Bhagwat's comments, hoping it would have a counter-effect," an RJD leader says.

But unfamiliar with how things worked in the hinterland, the BJP's campaign fumbled in comparison, focusing on trivial issues such as how Nitish, Lalu and Rahul Gandhi were

shy of sharing the dais. Perhaps a trifle smug in the wake of their huge win in the state in Lok Sabha polls last summer, Shah and his team were too slow to pick on evident signals that the game was slipping away. Their counter-strategy, including hastily trying to purvey Modi's backward caste origins, failed to undo the damage. Evidently apprehensive of what D-Day—November 8—would throw up, a day before a senior Bihar BJP leader despairingly described Bhagwat's suggestion as an impossible-to-reverse "self goal".

### RETURN TO RELIGION

Into campaigning for the fourth phase, which voted on November 1, a certain desperation had already crept in. Shah, and more significantly Prime Minister Modi himself, infused a communal colour to the BJP campaign, perhaps hoping to replicate what the party did in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar ahead of the General Election. So when Modi accused Nitish Kumar of conspiring to transfer quotas meant for backward castes to "a particular community", no one, including the crowd that turned out to hear him in Buxar on October 26, had the slightest doubt that the Prime Minister meant Muslims.

Addressing a rally in Raxaul on the Bihar-Nepal border on October 30, Shah too played the communal card, warning that "crackers will be burst in Pakistan" if the BJP loses the election. Coming in the wake of the sustained campaign by the saffron "fringe", not only did this remark firmly consolidate the 17 per cent Muslim vote bank behind the Janata alliance, it also angered several fence-sitters into wondering why the BJP was intent on polarising the atmosphere.

Arun Shourie, former BJP leader and a minister in A.B. Vajpayee's NDA 1 cabinet, however, says the strategy is past its sell-by date. "It should have been clear that you can't fire the same bullet twice" Shourie tells INDIA TODAY.

### MANUFACTURED AGGRESSION

Two hours into the counting of votes on November 8, BJP and RSS workers across the country received a text

# ONG

ST OF THINGS WENT OFF BEAM:  
UNDERPERFORMING ALLIES

PTI





message from a Sangh Parivar functionary in Rajasthan. It spoke of the “lessons” the Bihar verdict had for Modi and Shah: that “politics is a team game”, and that “a captain alone can’t win,” and also that “nobody likes an arrogant leader”. While this feeling may spread in the weeks to come, many within the Sangh Parivar believe the unbridled aggression of the campaign constructed by Shah, with Modi unrelentingly targeting Nitish, only helped increase sympathy for the JD(U) and its chief.

Modi’s questions on the efficacy of Nitish’s Bihari DNA also boomeranged badly, with Kishor building a campaign around it. Thousands of common Biharis were encouraged to send packets of their hair and finger-nail samples to the Prime Minister’s Office in Delhi. Each sender asked Modi to have their DNA tested. And in describing Bihar as a “bimaaru (sick)” state, he effectively relinquished any claims the BJP could have made at realising development as part of its earlier coalition with the JD(U).

Things got worse for the BJP when Lalu managed to bring beef into the poll debate and Modi’s obvious reluctance to speak out in the wake of the Dadri lynching. The final blow came on November 4, a day before polling for the final phase, when the Election Commission banned advertisements in which the BJP questioned Nitish’s silence on cow slaughter in an apparent attempt to counter-polarise Hindu voters against the Grand Alliance.

And as the Modi-Shah team committed what now comes across as blunders, one after the other, Kishor offered a spin to each one of those, turning them to the Grand Alliance’s advantage. After the dalliance with the DNA remark, he latched on to Modi’s reference to Lalu’s daughter Misa, who had lost the Lok Sabha polls to the Modi wave, as “*bechari beti* (helpless daughter)” at a rally near Patna on October 25. Kishor’s message was loud and clear: Modi was anti-woman. And when the Prime Minister and other NDA leaders raised the bogey of “jungle raj”—incidentally coined by Nitish to describe Lalu’s tenure

# CHRONICLES

CAMPAIGNING IS LIKE A BOXING BOUT. A HOOK HERE, A PUNCH TH  
NON-STOP POLITICAL PUGILISM IN A RAFT OF STATE ELECTIONS IN

By Damayanti Datta

## BIHAR MATCH 2015



SCORESHEET

THUNDER  
MEETS LIGHTNING

The PM addressed **30 rallies** in a little over **3 months**, at the rate of about 10 rallies a month for elections in 243 Assembly seats.

- Modi vs Nitish Kumar. No chief ministerial candidate announced by the BJP.
- Nitish and Lalu Prasad’s grand alliance trounced the NDA, sweeping 178 of the 243 seats.
- Endings don’t get more dramatic than this. Anticipation was high for both the leaders with great punching power.



“THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME PROBLEM IN HIS (NITISH KUMAR) DNA BECAUSE THE DNA OF DEMOCRACY IS NOT LIKE THAT. IN DEMOCRACY, YOU GIVE RESPECT EVEN TO YOUR POLITICAL RIVALS.”—NARENDRA MODI

## DELHI MATCH 2015



Modi addressed **five rallies** for the **70** Assembly seats



SCORESHEET

KNOCKOUT  
ROUND

- Modi vs Arvind Kejriwal. Kiran Bedi was the chief ministerial candidate for the BJP.
- First election loss for PM Modi and a stunning comeback for Arvind Kejriwal, with his Aam Aadmi Party winning 67 of the 70 seats.

## MAHARASHTRA MATCH 2014



PM addressed **27 rallies** the **288** Assembly seats.



SCORESHEET

SPARRING  
PARTNERS

- Modi vs rest (Uddhav Thackeray + Raj Thackeray + Narayan Rane + Ajit Pawar).
- BJP emerged as the largest party, up from 46 seats to 122, but stopped short of a majority—with, again, no CM candidate.
- By breaking alliance with the party’s oldest ally, the Shiv Sena, the Modi-Amit Shah combine took a huge risk, which paid off.

# OF THE FLYING FIST

HERE, YOU LAND SOME, YOU MISS SOME. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI HAS BEEN PLAYING THE LAST 18 MONTHS. CHECK OUT HIS SCORESHEET OF HITS, MISSES, RISKS AND REWARDS:

## HARYANA MATCH 2014



Modi addressed **11 rallies** in the campaign for elections in the **90** Assembly seats.



### SCORESHEET

ROLLING WITH PUNCHES

- Modi vs rest (Bhupinder Singh Hooda of the Congress + O.P. Chautala of the Indian National Lok Dal + Kuldeep Singh Bishnoi of the Haryana Janhit Congress).

- Sweeping victory for the BJP—up from four seats to 47—again without any chief ministerial candidate.

- A historic shift in power, with absolute majority for the BJP for the first time in the state. Congress decimated.



**"HARYANA KA BHAGYA BADALNA HAI. NIRNAY AAP KIIYE AUR HARYANA KA BHAGYA BADALIYE (HARYANA'S FATE IS IN YOUR HANDS). HARYANA RANKS 8TH AMONG OTHER INDIAN STATES ON PER CAPITA INCOME, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?"**

**"LAST YEAR, THOSE WHOM YOU VOTED (AAP) BACKSTABBED YOU AND SHATTERED YOUR DREAMS... DELHI WON'T VOTE FOR BETRAYERS."**



in the campaign for

**"IF MUMBAI AND MAHARASHTRA ARE LEFT BEHIND, COUNTRY ALSO FEELS LEFT BEHIND. WE CAN'T LET MAHARASHTRA LAG BEHIND."**



## JAMMU & KASHMIR MATCH 2014



Modi addressed **four rallies** for the **87** seats BJP contested.



### SCORESHEET

CLIMBING INTO THE RING

- Modi vs Mufti Mohammad Sayeed of the Peoples Democratic Party+ Omar Abdullah of the National Conference.

- BJP emerged as the second-largest party, winning 25 seats with the highest vote share, for the first time.



**"I HAVE COME HERE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TO WIPE THE TEARS OF THE PEOPLE."**

## JHARKHAND MATCH 2014



Modi addressed **nine rallies** in the campaign for elections in the **81** Assembly seats.



### SCORESHEET

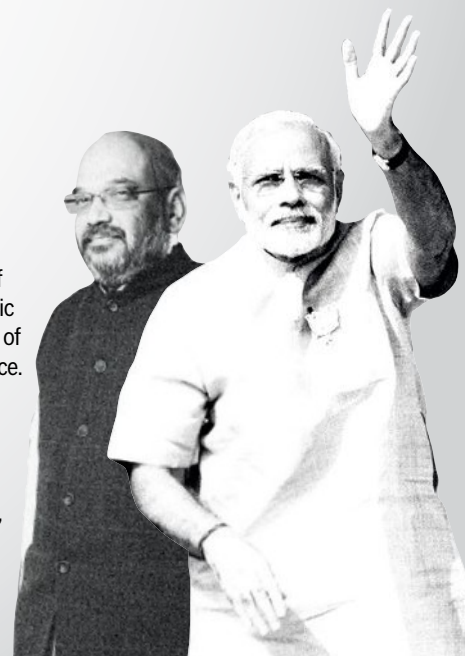
THROWING A KILLER HOOK

- Modi vs Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.

- A full-out fight between the lotus and the bow and arrow. The BJP emerged as the single-largest player, winning 37 seats.



**"I HAVE ADDRESSED THOUSANDS OF GATHERINGS IN THE PAST, BUT HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS. YOUR GESTURE HAS TOUCHED MY HEART AND BROUGHT TEARS TO MY EYES. GOD WILLING, I WILL DEDICATE MY WHOLE LIFE FOR YOUR WELL-BEING."**







RANJAN RAHI



(LEFT) MODI ADDRESSED 30 RALLIES IN BIHAR BUT THE MESSAGE WAS UNCLEAR—UNLIKE LAST SUMMER; MODI AND SHAH DOMINATING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HURT THE BJP



as CM when the two were at daggers drawn—the RJD chief had a ready retort: “Not jungle-raj, we will bring back Mandal raj.”

Post-defeat, many Bihar BJP leaders admit in private that Modi may have ended up injuring the Bihari pride even before the campaign began formally. They cite the public rally in Patna, on August 18, where he announced a Rs 1.25-lakh crore economic package for Bihar much in the fashion of a monarch of yore handing out doles to subjects.

The BJP started its Bihar assembly campaign with a clear deficit of 8.58 per cent votes. Although the NDA won 31 of Bihar’s 40 Lok Sabha seats in 2014, its combined tally of 36.48 per cent votes (BJP 29.86 per cent, LJP 6.5 per cent and RLSP 0.12 per cent) was considerably short of the 45.06 per cent votes that the RJD, JD(U) and the Congress collectively polled, having contested separately.

## BAD ARITHMETIC

It was a huge gap, but the BJP, high on its Lok Sabha success, believed that given their inherent contradictions and acrimonious past, Nitish and Lalu would never be able to cobble a working partnership. But taking them by complete surprise, the two worked out a

seamless seat-sharing deal where even the Congress, which held just four seats in the outgoing assembly, was given 40 constituencies. In contrast, NDA allies Ram Vilas Paswan of the LJP and Jitan Ram Manjhi of HAM(S) still squabbled over seats, while Upendra Kushwaha of the RLSP sulked.

On November 9, a day after the results, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who has managed many past elections, conceded that the BJP had failed the test of electoral arithmetic. “I think the principal reason (for the NDA’s drubbing) is that when three major parties come together, the arithmetic suits them. We had thought that the development agenda and Prime Minister Modi’s impact will create a new chemistry that will ride over the arithmetic, as in the Lok Sabha polls. But that didn’t happen,” Jaitley said after the BJP Parliamentary Board’s meeting to discuss the election debacle.

Jaitley also admitted that the BJP had miscalculated the three partners’ ability to convince their caste-based supporters to vote for the alliance’s candidate in their respective constituencies. “The Prime Minister’s rallies got mind-bogglingly high numbers,” he pointed out, “but statements made by some BJP leaders which deviated

from our main plank of development perhaps detracted from our message.”

But development was not the only message the party was attempting right from the ticket distribution stage. Amit Shah sought to create a twin track: Modi’s message of “vikas”, or development, went hand in hand with a minute examination of the caste of each candidate. Of the 160 seats the BJP fought, 64 candidates came from the “forward” castes, and 22 were Yadavs. The BJP kept for itself the task of getting upper caste votes, and depended on Paswan, Manjhi and Kushwaha to bring in the backward caste, EBC and Dalit voters. But not only did the allies fail in that task, the BJP’s bid to woo the younger Yadav voters also came a cropper.

## BIHARI VERSUS BAHARI

Strange as it may sound, the BJP might also have been done in by its over-reliance on Modi the campaigner. What this meant was a sidelining of local leaders—an issue Shatrughan Sinha has raised openly, and one that many more are now discussing in private. But Modi perhaps did not have much hope and dreams to sell. Last year, the prime ministerial candidate was backed by his impressive track record

RANJAN RAHI

## YOU CAN'T

FIRE THE SAME  
BULLET TWICE, AND MAGI-  
CIANS CANNOT HAVE THE SAME  
GRAND DESIGNS REPEATEDLY,  
SAYS ARUN SHOURIE.



of the Gujarat CM and managed to raise hopes. More than a year on, he is yet to fulfil his bagful of promises. And Nitish, Lalu and Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi left no opportunity to remind the crowd how Modi had failed to generate jobs, bring in any real development and also failed to get back black money.

With Modi as the face of the campaign, and Shah ostensibly its heart—the party chief had camped in Patna for long and coordinated the election project—most BJP campaign posters and hoardings carried images and depictions of the two leaders from Gujarat. It was enough for the Nitish-Lalu camp, backed by the ever-present backroom strategist Prashant Kishor and his team, to coin another catchphrase: Bihari versus Bahari (outsider).

The BJP had its own “outsider” problem. Several leaders in charge of the campaign are from outside the state: Ananth Kumar (MP from Bangalore South), Bhupendra Yadav (Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan), Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, hails from Odisha), Shrikant Sharma (from Himachal Pradesh), C.R. Patil (MP from Navsari, Gujarat), among others. As the electioneering went on,

this presence of the “outsiders” triggered heartburn among state and district-level party leaders. “How were they expected to understand the complex, caste-ridden politics of Bihar,” wonders a local party leader.

Even senior state leaders often learnt of decisions only when they were ‘told’ to implement them—by leaders who had come from outside. Sushil Modi, the former deputy chief minister to Nitish, for instance, learnt that the party would play Bihar like the other state polls, and unlike Delhi, and go without a chief ministerial candidate through public announcement. And this, just a day before the BJP Parliamentary Board, of which he is a member, was scheduled to meet.

There are a host of reasons for the defeat—miscalculation, ill-advised strategy, undependable allies. But at the root of it all, says a senior RSS leader, was “*vinamrata ka abhaav*”—a lack of humility in the leadership. That is a lot to ponder over in the weeks and months ahead. The BJP did not introspect as much as it should have after the Delhi debacle. Now the party should do a thorough post-mortem.

with Jyoti Malhotra

Follow the writers on Twitter @Amitabh1975 and @UdayMahurkar

# HPL Wires. A truly safe decision.

## PVC Insulated Domestic & Industrial Cables

- Electrolytic 100% Pure Copper
- High Insulation Resistance
- Double Insulation with Ultra thin layer

## HPL Wires

### 100% COPPER

### FLAME RETARDANT

### DOUBLE INSULATION with Ultra Thin Layer



Ab roshan  
ho khushiyaan

HPL

Wires &  
Cables

www.hplindia.com





# THE GREAT BIHAR TALK SHOW

TWISTS, TURNS, SLIPS, STUMBLERS, BLUNDERS AND BLOOPERS BEHIND A SWING ELECTION

The strength of a democracy lies in the dialogue between politicians, people and the press. A look at the political language—who said what, when and how—in the boisterous, and sometimes ill-tempered, campaign in Bihar:



**April 14** Frenemies to friends. **Lalu Prasad Yadav** and **Nitish Kumar** hugged at a press conference in Delhi, all to save Bihar from the BJP. "I want to assure you that there is no ego issue," said Lalu.



**August** Nitish demanded on social media that Modi take back his words, started a signature campaign, sending people's nail and hair samples to Modi for DNA tests.

"I am son of Bihar, so my DNA is the DNA of the people of Bihar".



GREAT CONTROVERSY

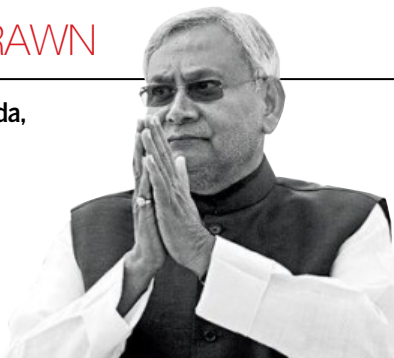
**July 25, Muzaffarpur** "I figured there was probably a problem in the DNA (because of Nitish's decision to part ways with the BJP)..."

One slip-up that gave Nitish his first major opening. Just as Modi had turned Mani Shankar Aiyar's "chaiwala" comment into an election arsenal in 2014, so did Nitish Modi's DNA comment.

## AT DAGGERS DRAWN

**September** Election dates were announced and the two camps were at daggers drawn. A string of high-decibel name-calling, jibes, taunts and personal attacks set the tone of the campaign, resonating across the nation—on television, in print or social media.

In his seven-point agenda, Nitish promised young voters free Wi-Fi in campuses and student credit card schemes for advanced education across the state in August-September.



He challenged BJP's claims of misgovernance and data as being "fudged", brought out his own data set, did the math to show how Modi's "special package" for Bihar was a compilation of old and unrealised projects.

It was only now that the PM rolled out his "development" campaign, promising "biji, sadak, paani" (electricity, road and water) and "dawai, kamaai, padhai" (medicines, money and education) for the elderly and the youth.



Modi's Development

**October 25, Patna** "I often think that if Ambedkar had not been there, what would have happened to me? *Ek ati-pichhdi maa ki kokh se paida hua, chai bechkar bada hua ladka aaj yahan kaise pauncha*"

Around end-October, the PM started identifying himself as belonging to "ati-pichhda" (extremely backward) caste groups, although in none of his rallies earlier, not once did he mention his caste.

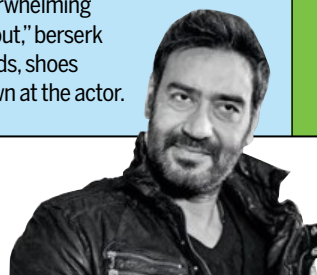
## THE LAST LAP

Women voters outnumbered men in Bihar polls. So went the math. Hence from mid-October star women campaigners started wooing their "sisters" to add more heft. **Sushma Swaraj** warned of "Jungle Raj 2" while Union HRD Minister **Smriti Irani** said: "Sisters, let me warn you...God forbid if the jungle raj returns, you will be its first victim." BJP MP **Hema Malini** pointed to

lack of safety: "I could never perform in Bihar because it isn't safe here."

Things did not go too well for Bollywood star **Ajay Devgan**, invited to campaign in four towns by a BJP candidate. The fallout? "Overwhelming turnout," berserk crowds, shoes thrown at the actor.

**Amit Shah** embraced controversy with his comment, "There will be celebrations in Pakistan if the Grand Alliance wins in Bihar." **Sushil Modi** said: "Vote for PM Modi. China, Pakistan afraid of him."





**April 14** BJP sounded the poll bugle. Party president Amit Shah rubbished the alliance at a massive rally in Patna: **"Zero plus zero is zero. No matter what alliance you form."**



**May 20** Prashant Kishor, 37, the man who marketed PM Modi as "Vikas Purush" and conceived his "Chai Pe Charcha" campaign, flew down to Patna to meet Nitish. An alleged fall-out with Amit Shah pushed him to the Nitish camp.

Professional campaign manager

## BARBS, JIBES, TAUNTS AND SOPS



**July** As the BJP brought out 160 GPS-monitored chariots, Nitish took to bicycles and Lalu tongas for electioneering.



**June** Nitish promptly announced road and bridge projects worth Rs 6,000 crore. By **August**, the aura of big money was everywhere: if PM Modi announced a special package of Rs 1.25 lakh crore, Nitish countered with a package of Rs 2.7 lakh crore and a swipe at the PM's radio programme: "It's my 'dil ki baat' and not 'mann ki baat'".

**May** Transport minister Nitin Gadkari rolled out the first wad of largesse—a Rs 50,000 crore package for Bihar roadways. "Sonia Gandhi is worried about the employment of Rahul Gandhi, Lalu Prasad is worried about the jobs of his sons and daughters, while Narendra Modi is worried about the unemployment of crores of people of India."



"I am surprised at the data that Bihar has 70 community health centres. I do not know where he got his data from. Maybe from Gujarat, which is good at manufacturing." - Nitish

**September 21 A** "turning point" was RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement on the need to review the reservation policy. Lalu Prasad used it to turn the backward castes as a rallying force behind the Grand Alliance.

**September 23-29** PM Modi kick-started his two-nation tour, Ireland and the US, including visits to Silicon Valley.

**September 29** A day after Dadri lynching, the PM kept silent on it, but tweeted, "Birthday greetings" to colleague Mahesh Sharma, the man who had called the incident an "accident".

## PERSONAL IS POLITICAL



Campaign turned into a pot-boiler, with dramatic encounters with voodoo masters and astrologers. After PM Modi hit out at Nitish for visiting a tantrik, astrologer **Bejan Daruwalla** revealed that the PM had consulted him.

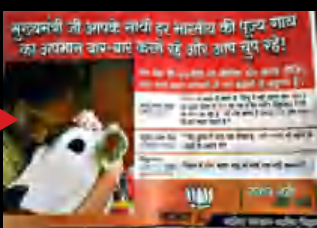
**Beef politics** took centrestage with Lalu's comment "Hindus also eat beef". Modi wades into wordplay ("shaitan") with Lalu calling him "Brahm Pishach" (demon spirit).



**October** Sonia Gandhi entered the fray in battle armour. In a rally at Bhagalpur took swipe at Modi for "always staying abroad". Modi responded: "Nitish babu says I am a bahari but how can a PM be bahari in his own country?"



Ads in local dailies started to appear highlighting statements of various opposition leaders, including Lalu Prasad, whose comments on eating beef were found to be "hurtful to Hindu sentiments".



Chief Minister Nitish Kumar raked up PM Modi's 'DNA' remark on the last day of campaigning and asked voters to reply to the barb against **Bihari pride**.

Bihar stunned the nation on **November 8**, giving the Grand Alliance a sweeping victory.



A photograph of Narendra Modi from behind, standing with his hands clasped behind his back, looking at a large green chalkboard. He is wearing a dark blue vest over a light-colored kurta and white trousers. The background is a textured wall with a green chalkboard in the center.

# LESSONS FOR MODI

THE PRIME MINISTER NEEDS  
TO KICK-START REFORMS AND  
BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN  
PROMISE AND DELIVERY IF THE  
BJP IS TO LEARN FROM ITS  
HUMBLING IN BIHAR

| By Shweta Punj and Jyoti Malhotra |

Photograph by ROHIT CHAWLA  
Photo Montage by AMARJEET SINGH NAGI



The BJP's defeat in Bihar, its worst performance in the state in a decade, came tinged with irony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who swept into office on the promise of economic development and good governance, spearheaded a shrill political campaign in the state that increasingly focused on caste and religion over economic issues. Cow-themed newspaper advertisements released by the BJP on the last day of campaigning showed how far away the party had strayed from its new core agenda.

The Nitish Kumar-led JD(U)-RJD alliance, in sharp contrast, kept the focus on issues of governance and aspiration to sweep the elections.

In the slippery world of politics, the Modi-led NDA's slip could well be the trigger for some major realignments and introspection as it faces multiple challenges in the days and months ahead. A reinvigorated Opposition faces the government in the winter session of Parliament beginning November 26. The NDA still lacks the numbers in the Rajya Sabha to push crucial bills through Parliament. Elections to state assemblies in Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Assam are a matter of months. And these are only the short-term challenges.

Time is of the essence, as Prime Minister Modi readies to face the electorate in 2019, less than three and a half years away. In the Bihar defeat could lie the lessons for the revival of a development-focused campaign and the urgent need to bridge the gap between intent and delivery.

## POLITICAL REFORM

The main message from the Grand Alliance's demolition job in Bihar is that the era of standalone rule has come to an end. And just like a revamped Opposition needs to ally together if it has to stand together, party leaders say Modi must realise that the BJP needs to reach out to allies within the NDA and the Opposition across the aisle if it has to keep the business of government going. He needs to engage in back-channel diplomacy to get major decisions and policies through. The government's ability to get the Goods

and Services Tax through is the litmus test. Its ability to push through reforms on land and labour will depend on its ability to take everyone along. It needs clever floor management and an outreach to old partners such as Samajwadi Party and the AIADMK.

The BJP needs to control its lunatic fringe. After the Dadri lynching incident and the ongoing controversy over beef-eating, the Prime Minister's silence meant that the centre had also shifted much farther to the right. The immediate fallout of the Bihar debacle should be that Modi takes control of this fringe and shifts the centre back to where it belongs.

Modi must realise that his key aide and alter ego Amit Shah needs to allow dissent to surface. The BJP is today full of people who are sniping at the leadership. Leaders such as Rajnath

**MODI MUST**  
REALISE THAT AMIT  
SHAH NEEDS TO  
ALLOW DISSENT TO  
SURFACE. THE BJP  
IS TODAY FULL OF  
PEOPLE WHO ARE  
SNIPING AT THE  
LEADERSHIP.

Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Sushma Swaraj are said to be hugely unhappy with Modi's style of governance where he centralises power and marginalises the rest.

"The fact that he didn't see the BJP rout in Bihar is a result of this increasingly authoritarian style of functioning. Modiji doesn't seem to need anyone else, which is why he also doesn't know when the ground is shifting beneath his feet," says a national-level BJP leader. Partymen say that the message that arrogance is unacceptable will have to go down the line.

The big danger for Modi is that Bihar will be seen nationally as a vote of no-confidence in his governance. This is because he led the campaign

in Bihar, with party President Amit Shah coming a close second. Neither allowed the state unit to really have a say in the matter. No chief ministerial candidate was announced.

As much as Modi, the defeat in Bihar is a huge setback for Shah's invincible position in the BJP. Party leaders say it is "too early to tell" whether Shah will be removed from the party's presidentship when elections are held in January. Many say it is unlikely, because Modi will want to keep control of the party and the only way he can do it is to let Shah run it. Even Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Modi's close confidant, has been critical of the BJP's radicals hijacking the government's development agenda on several counts; Modi has kept quiet on many of these occasions.

Few are writing off the Modi-Shah duo yet and believe that the dirt has stuck on Modi only because he committed the strategic error of trying to turn Bihar into a referendum instead of maintaining his cool like Nitish Kumar. Modi will have to create a happiness index for gauging the level of satisfaction with him on the part of both a section of party leaders and workers. For that he will have to make himself more accessible to party functionaries.

## GOVERNANCE AND REFORM

The message is loud and clear for Prime Minister Modi to go back to the development agenda that won the party a historic mandate in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. The focus could now could shift to executive action as indicated by Jaitley a day after the Bihar verdict. Policy-watchers say that the Prime Minister could have done a lot more in implementation in the first 18 months such as filling vacancies in public sector banks, the National Highways Authority of India and other institutions. He should have also addressed the straight 10-month decline in exports—India's merchandise exports declined in September by 24.3 per cent from last year. Increased spending in crucial sectors such as roads, rural economy should have happened earlier, perhaps immediately after the first budget, but spending only picked up in the latter half of





## ACTION STATIONS

FOCUS AREAS FOR THE MODI GOVERNMENT TO  
NARRATIVE BACK ON THE TABLE AND PUT EXTRE**FOCUS  
ON GOOD  
GOVERNANCE**

Focus on delivering through executive decision making. Address decline in exports. Push the envelope on Aadhaar and use it for direct targeting of subsidies.

**ACCELERATE  
REFORM**

Accelerate road and highway construction to increase rural connectivity. Simplify tax structure.

**REACH OUT TO  
THE OPPOSITION**

Old partners such as the Samajwadi Party and the AIADMK can prove handy in passing major decisions such as Goods and Services Tax. Reforms on land and labour will depend on the government's ability to take everyone along.

**RE-ENERGISE RURAL  
ECONOMY**

Farming contributes about 15 per cent of India's \$2 trillion economy but employs half of India's 1.25 billion people. Re-energise rural and farm economy, steep drop in rural wage growth, stave off impending rural crisis exacerbated by erratic monsoon.

Illustration by SAURABH SINGH

2014. The government needs to start pushing the envelope on Aadhaar and use it for direct targeting of subsidies.

A presidential style will not work in a democracy like India unless the people driving it are extremely capable. Prime Minister Modi perhaps should take this opportunity to assess the talent pool in his cabinet and take some difficult decisions.

The government has initiated the process of executive reforms such as addressing the losses of power distribution companies through Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY)—the third such bailout package ever for discoms which will require states to take over 75 per cent of the state electricity board loans by the end of fiscal 2017 and 50 per cent by the end of March 2016. It has also announced incremental reforms through the Indradhanush mission to tackle non-performing assets of the banking sector through the creation of a Bank Board Bureau, linking the

compensation of banks' top management to performance and improving governance standards.

But these are only tentative first steps. The government needs to accelerate such executive decision-making and go the Vajpayee route in accelerating building of roads and highways, increasing rural connectivity. Essentially, give people something tangible to 'feel' the promise of "Achhe Din". "Focus on infrastructure, especially on roads has a spillover effect on

poor and non poor which eventually pays rich electoral dividends as well," says Ajit Ranade, chief economic adviser, Aditya Birla Group.

There are other challenges such as the need to untangle tax issues, take a more proactive approach in resolving ongoing cases such as the Vodafone tax case out of court. Minister of State for Finance, Jayant Sinha, did indicate the intent of the government to do so. Now the administration should move on this promptly. Political economy experts say that the government should use this opportunity to go back to good clean economics—tax department should move swiftly to bring down corporate tax by two percentage points, formulate a direct tax code, bring in a comprehensive insurance package. Direct tax code is an attempt by the government to simplify direct tax laws in India. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley scrapped the Direct Tax Code in the last budget for 2015-2016.

While kick-starting such long

**THE CENTRE**  
NOW NEEDS TO  
GIVE PEOPLE  
SOMETHING  
TANGIBLE TO 'FEEL'  
THE PROMISE OF  
"ACHHE DIN".

BRING THE DEVELOPMENT  
ME VOICES ON THE DEFENSIVE



### FIX TALENT DEFICIT

The PM needs to assess the talent deficit in his cabinet and take tough decisions.



### DECENTRALISE DECISION-MAKING

Extreme control of PMO is leading to a policy paralysis of a different kind. Needs to empower ministers and institutions like Niti Aayog

“Many reforms are executive decisions. Those will continue. Many legislative issues also get passed by Parliament. In some cases there are delays, those will be sorted out.”

**ARUN JAITLEY**

Union Finance Minister



delayed reform, the government needs to move away from its centralised decision-making approach. Every business house talks about extreme control of the PMO which is leading to a policy paralysis of a different kind. Perhaps it's time to empower ministers and institutions such as the Niti Aayog.

### THE RURAL ECONOMY

There is also a growing realisation within the economic ministries that while a lot of work has been done to revive investments, purchasing power in rural areas continues to be under pressure. Farmers are hurting and people are yet to feel the impact of an economy on the mend. Going forward, there will be a concerted focus on agriculture, rural incomes and rural indebtedness. Investments need to be fast-tracked and that the government needs to do more.

A mission such as Clean India is unlikely to be a vote clincher but re-energising the policy to address India's

rural and farm economy could well reap electoral dividends. Farming contributes about 15 per cent of India's \$2-trillion economy, half of India's 1.25 billion people rely on farm-related income. Rural wage growth has slowed from 17 per cent to 3 per cent. India is staring at an impending rural crisis which has only been exacerbated with an erratic monsoon.

“They have to tell their agrarian story to the farmer, that space is being taken by other parties. There should be a more market-oriented approach to farm policy and that information has to reach people,” says an economist. Opening a Jan Dhan account is all very well from a long-term perspective but taking schemes such as this one to its logical conclusion, assessing the use of such accounts is what the government needs to focus on. “The question that the government needs to ask is, what does the farmer want?” says another economist.

A farmer wants certainty in income

which schemes such as MGNREGA provided. Or the government has to create jobs. A lot of these issues are state-specific issues. The Prime Minister will have to find a way to address these concerns while furthering the federal structure, a stated aim of his.

As the Sensex, the Indian stock market bellwether, crashed 379 points two days after the Bihar results, Prime Minister Modi announced a slew of measures to remove irritants and simplify investments. Some of the measures announced include 100 per cent FDI in non-news TV channels, full fungibility in private sector banks, allowing foreign portfolio investors to invest in defence, dropping the sourcing clause for FDI in retail, among others to drive home the point that India's economic right wing party does indeed mean business. This, however, is only the beginning.

**with Uday Mahurkar and M.G. Arun**

Follow the writers on Twitter

@jomalhotra and @shwetapunj





# CENTRIPETAL FORCE

WILL THIRD-TIME CM NITISH KUMAR NOW EMERGE AS THE FULCRUM AROUND WHICH FORCES OPPOSED TO NARENDRA MODI WILL COALESCE AHEAD OF THE 2019 POLLS?

By Kaushik Deka

If the BJP's brutal majority in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections all but rang the death knell for Opposition parties, the Bihar poll results seem to have infused a fresh lease of life to forces opposed to the ruling dispensation at the Centre. CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury has declared this as the beginning of "real *achche din*". The results could spur the formation of an alliance of anti-NDA parties—with Nitish Kumar at its head—to take on Force Modi in the 2019 General Election. The big question though is: will the third-time Bihar CM be acceptable to others?

Nitish already has cheerleaders such as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, both of whom appealed to Bihar voters on his behalf. "Nitish, Mamata, Arvind and a few others are already working in great cohesion inside and outside Parliament. More parties will join them," says Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien. But Nitish as the first among equals might not be palatable to the likes of Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, let alone his alliance partner and 'elder brother' Lalu Prasad Yadav. And, of course, there's Congress, which has already claimed credit for bringing Lalu and Nitish together. "The future of this coalition will revolve around Rahul Gandhi's leadership," says Congress's communication in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala.

With 2019 still far away, here are probable allies Nitish could reach out to.

Follow the writer on Twitter @KDscribe



CONGRESS

44 SEATS

## EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

Has led three coalition governments between 1991 and 1996 and 2004 and 2014. Propped up Chandrasekhar and the UF governments in the 1990s.

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Vice President Rahul Gandhi has an excellent personal rapport with Nitish.

## LIKELY SCENARIO

In a coalition government, Rahul would like to play kingmaker.



SP

5 SEATS

## EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

SP was a major constituent of the United Front government between 1996 and 1998. It gave outside support to UPA 1 and UPA 2 between 2004 and 2010.

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Mulayam-Akhilesh want to mend fences now after ditching Nitish-Lalu ahead of the Bihar polls.

## LIKELY SCENARIO

Janata Parivar reviv but Mulayam has F



TRS

10 SEATS

## EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

Was part of the UPA between 2004 and 2014.

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

K. Chandrasekhar Rao congratulated Nitish but for the moment, he is cosying up to the NDA.

## LIKELY SCENARIO

TRS will go with any combine that assumes power at the Centre.



BSP

SEAT

## EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

BSP provided outside support to UPA government between 2004 and 2009.

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

During Bihar poll campaign, attack Nitish, focus on

## LIKELY SCENARIO

It will not be a part of any coalition which has



SEATS

## EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

None.

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Arvind Kejriwal campaigned for Nitish Kumar during the Bihar polls.

## LIKELY SCENARIO

Will certainly be a part of a Nitish-led alliance.



AIADMK

37 SEATS

## EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

Was part of the NDA government between 1998 and 2004.

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Thanks to Jayaprakash's personal rapport with Modi, she may not support

## LIKELY SCENARIO

Unlikely to jump ship but also has PM as

Current NDA partners have not been considered

JANATA DAL (UNITED)

2 SEATS

Was part of the NDA government



RJD

4  
SEATS

#### EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

It has been part of two Congress-led UPA governments between 2004 and 2014.

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Lalu would want Nitish to move to national politics so that his sons can take charge of Bihar.

#### LIKELY SCENARIO

Will depend on how the Mahagathbandhan rule pans out.



NCP

6  
SEATS

#### EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

Was part of the UPA government between 2004 and 2014.

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

NCP quit the Bihar grand alliance as Nitish refused to offer more than three seats to it.

#### LIKELY SCENARIO

NCP may not be averse to rejoining this alliance in future.



DMK

0  
SEAT

#### EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

Was part of NDA between 1999 and 2002, UPA between 2004 and 2014 and National Front (1989-91) and UF (1996-98) governments.

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Karunanidhi has congratulated Nitish saying people have voted for development.

#### LIKELY SCENARIO

It will hitch its wagon readily to any Nitish-led front.



BJD

20  
SEATS

#### EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

Was part of NDA government between 1998 and 2004, but walked out unilaterally.

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Naveen Patnaik has a good equation with Nitish but has avoided joining any grand coalition.

#### LIKELY SCENARIO

Unlikely to be a part of any pre-poll alliance.



LEFT  
PARTIES

10  
SEATS

#### EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

Along with BJP, supported the National Front government in 1989. Was part of the UF government (1996-98) and the UPA 1 government (2004-09).

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Sitaram Yechury hailed Nitish's victory as the beginning of "real *achche din*".

#### LIKELY SCENARIO

Will certainly be a part of a Nitish-led coalition.



TMC

34  
SEATS

#### EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

Was part of NDA government between 2004 and 2012, and 2012.

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Unlikely to be a part of any pre-poll alliance.

#### LIKELY SCENARIO

Unlikely to be a part of any pre-poll alliance.



TDP

1  
SEAT

#### EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

None.

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Nitish is not a political untouchable for the party.

#### LIKELY SCENARIO

Likely to join hands in future as TDP is a part of the NDA.



JDU

1  
SEAT

#### EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTRE

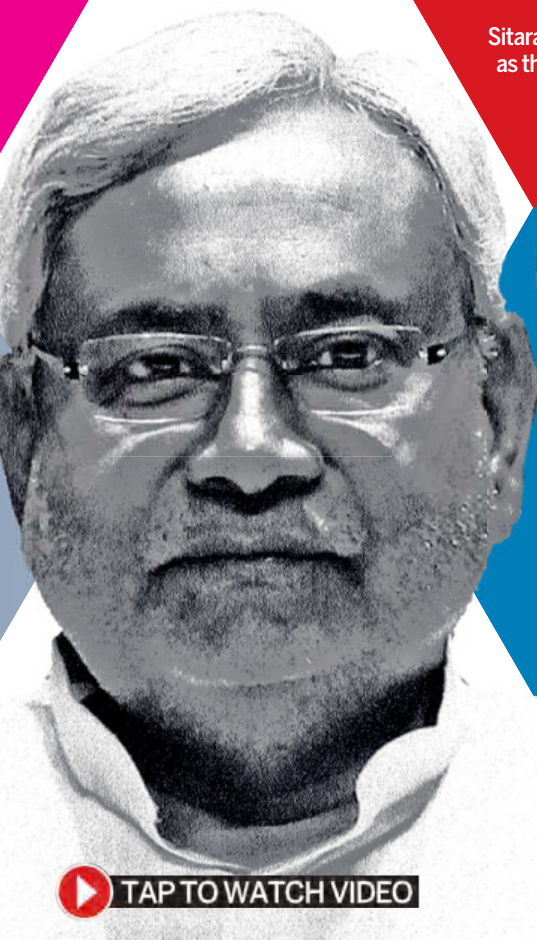
Was part of NDA government between 2004 and 2014, and United Front governments.

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS NITISH

Unlikely to be a part of any pre-poll alliance.

#### LIKELY SCENARIO

Unlikely to be a part of any pre-poll alliance.



TAP TO WATCH VIDEO

ment between 1998 and 2004. Quit NDA in 2013 after the BJP named Narendra Modi to lead its poll campaign.



SOS AWARD-WINNERS—INCLUDING THE CHIEF MINISTERS OF GUJARAT, MADHYA PRADESH, ASSAM, GOA AND MANIPUR—WITH INDIA TODAY GROUP CHAIR



# WHEN STATES TOOK CENTR

India Today Group State of the States Conclave focuses on the importance of transparency, flexibility and accountability for states to gain maximum growth

By Shadab Nazmi

**T**he future of India lies in its states. Much more than the Centre, state governments come into maximum contact with the citizens and work together for their welfare. “Even a strong BJP-led government at the Centre is today led by a man who had been at the helm of a state for 13 long years. Through his experience of running Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi understands that India’s political and economic future depends on what happens in the 31 state Capitals and Union Territories,” Aroon Purie, chairman and editor-in-chief of India Today, said in his inaugural speech at the 13th

edition of the State of the States conclave in Delhi on November 6.

Chief ministers, bureaucrats and leaders from the central government marked their attendance at the conclave to acknowledge the distinctive work of states in the fields of agriculture, infrastructure, health, investment, governance, education, macro economy, inclusive development, cleanliness and environment. Gujarat, the go-to investment destination of the country, was crowned in three categories at the gala event—best state for investment and cleanliness and also best state, overall performance—and was presented with the awards by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

“*Gatisheel* Gujarat (speeding

Gujarat) has become a development mantra in the state. Gujarat’s innovative techniques and holistic approach, premised on the mission mode scale in agriculture and other human index indicators, has led to *Gatisheel* Gujarat,” said Chief Minister Anandiben Patel. It wasn’t easy for Patel to take charge of Gujarat after Modi but the ‘State of the States’ study shows that she has taken the ‘Gujarat model’ of development to new heights. “According to the 2015 World Bank report on Indian states, Gujarat is the most investment-friendly state in the country. And the amicable approach has created a win-win relationship between industry and public,” Patel pointed out.



CHANDRADEEP KUMAR

## THE STATE OF THE STATES AWARD-WINNERS

	BIG STATE	SMALL STATE
OVERALL	GUJARAT	SIKKIM
AGRICULTURE	MADHYA PRADESH	PUDUCHERRY
MACRO ECONOMY	HARYANA	SIKKIM
INFRASTRUCTURE	ASSAM	MIZORAM
CLEANLINESS	GUJARAT	SIKKIM
INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT	TELANGANA	DELHI
INVESTMENT	GUJARAT	SIKKIM
ENVIRONMENT	HARYANA	PUDUCHERRY
HEALTH	J&K	MANIPUR
GOVERNANCE	KERALA	SIKKIM
EDUCATION	KERALA	GOA

# E STAGE



**"For years, there have been efforts to promote favouritism in federalism. This has not been good for the development and overall growth of the country."**

**RAJNATH SINGH**

Union Home Minister

In the small states category, Sikkim emerged at the top, rising a commendable eight places from 2014. The state ruled for almost two decades by Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling, bagged top position in four of ten categories—best small state for macro economy, governance, cleanliness and investment—apart from being adjudged the best small state overall.

Goa retained its position as the best small state for education since 2013. "I remember those days when the state did not have a primary teacher. Today, we are at the top position in education," said state Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar. Surprisingly, Tamil Nadu, which won the top honour of best overall state in 2014, slipped to 20th position this year.

Rajnath Singh took the opportunity to talk about the principle of cooperative federalism. "In the years after Independence, there have been efforts to promote favouritism in federalism. This has not been good for the development and overall growth of the country," he added.

Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi lambasted the Centre for not acknowledging the North-eastern states as part of India. "North-eastern states are the worst victims. We wanted time from the Prime Minister, but we could not get it for three months. This is not the team India promised to us," said Gogoi, whose state won the award for infrastructure. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had a counter ready, "I recently met PM Modi and chief ministers of three North-eastern states were with him." Chouhan also claimed his state was no longer BIMARU, pointing to double-digit GDP growth over the last seven years. "Considering that about 65 per cent population depends on agriculture, we have provided the best irrigation facilities in the state. We learnt a lesson from Gujarat for provision of 24x7 power supply in the state," he added.

The conclave ended on a high note of how states should focus on transparency, flexibility and accountability to gain maximum growth.

Follow the writer on Twitter @shadabnazmi



## BEND IT LI

China's increasing willingness to dam up the Brahmaputra in Tibet sparks fears of India losing out in the race for harnessing hydropower

By Ananth Krishnan in Beijing  
and Kaushik Deka in New Delhi

**O**n October 13, China operationalised its first major dam on the Brahmaputra (known as Yarlung Zangbo in China and Siang in Arunachal Pradesh), a 510-MW hydropower project at Zangmu, 140 km southeast of Lhasa on the river's middle reaches. The project, triggering concern in India about the impact on downstream flows, could, however, be just the beginning of a Chinese plan to build a series of dams to tap the river's fierce waters in Tibet for hydropower.

Zhang Boting, the deputy secretary general of the Chinese Society of Hydropower Engineers, an influential

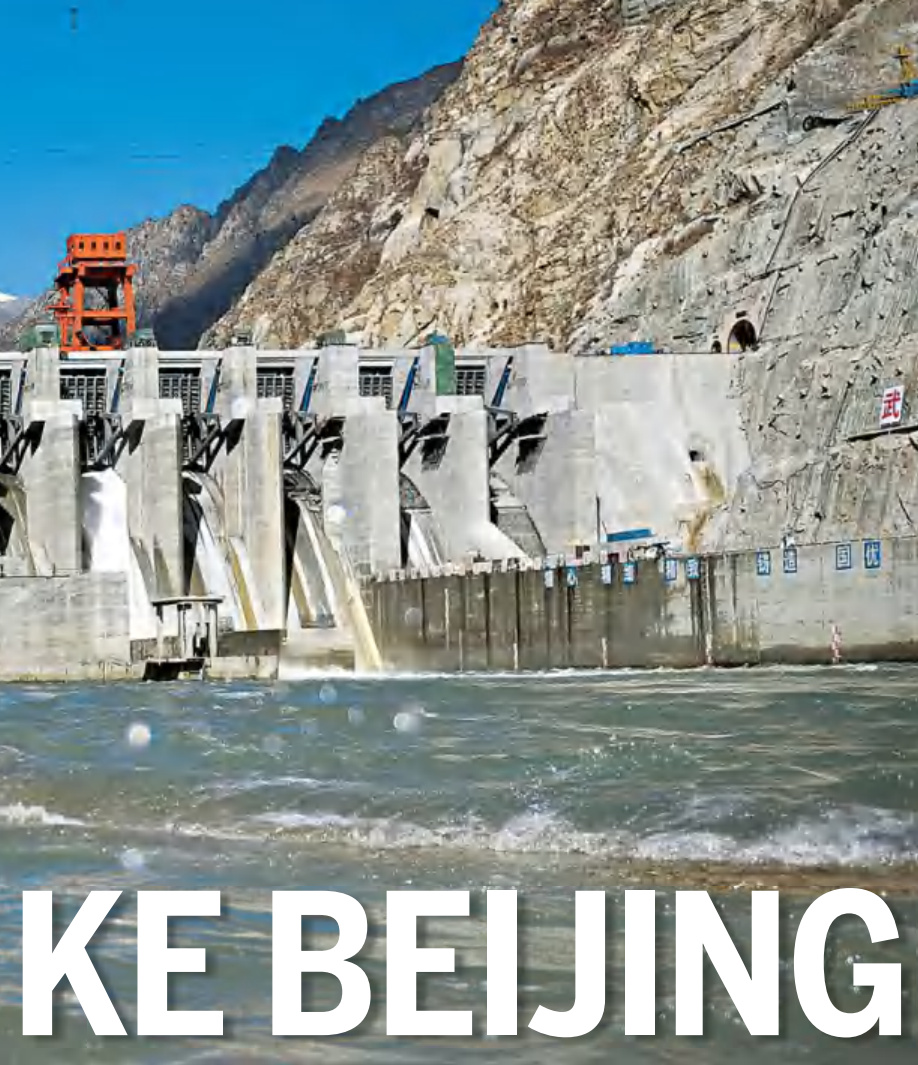
pro-hydropower advisory group, believes the Brahmaputra is the country's last great energy hope. "This river alone," says Zhang, "has the power for two Three Gorges dams," referring to the 22.5-GW mega-dam that China built on the Yangtze river, and is the world's largest.

If Zhang has his way, China will in the coming decade embark on its most-ambitious hydropower project, surpassing the Three Gorges in scale and power: a 38-GW mega-dam that will come up right on the Brahmaputra's Great Bend, a stunning canyon where the river drops ferociously over close to 1,000 metres before it changes course towards India.

Chinese and Indian officials, as well as hydropower experts, say the Zangmu dam will have minimal impact downstream as it is a "run-of-the-river" project without a large reservoir, and doesn't divert the river's waters. However, what may worry India is a series of projects that Chinese companies have planned for the river. New

proposals for dams put forward by the Chinese government and state-run hydropower firms, and interviews with officials and experts in Beijing, suggest that there is a willingness to proceed with projects that were earlier seen as either technically challenging or too costly. With Beijing moving forward with an ambitious target to reduce carbon emissions, announced when President Xi Jinping visited the US in September, coupled with a slowdown in China's nuclear sector amid ongoing safety reviews, the government appears to be betting increasingly on hydropower as the way forward.

In March, the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region government's National People's Congress (NPC) approved plans to develop hydropower projects, highlighting three projects on the Yarlung Zangbo: a 640-MW dam upstream of Zangmu in Dagu, a second dam in Jiexu estimated at 500 MW, and a smaller 321-MW dam in Jiacha (*see graphic*). The three projects were approved in 2013,



# KE BEIJING

THE ZANGMU HYDROPOWER STATION IN GYACA COUNTY IN LHOKA, TIBET

and the NPC report called for them to be accelerated, suggesting they may be operationalised within three years.

Leading the charge is the Gezhouba Group, a state-owned hydropower firm based in Wuhan in central China. The heads of Gezhouba wield more power than officials of China's environment regulatory authority that is responsible for approving dams, according to a former official of the National Development and Reform Commission, the top planning body. On its website, Gezhouba has announced an ambitious agenda to pursue projects in Tibet, including at Motuo, or Medog, at the Great Bend. The company estimates China's next two five-year plans—the 13th (2016-2020) and 14th (2021-2025)—will push hydropower plans more aggressively in Tibet, specially after 2020. Details of a new dam posted on Gezhouba's website underline the firm's keenness to build a hydropower base in Motuo. The plans reveal that it has already invested 2 billion yuan (around Rs 2,000 crore) in a dam in

Motuo—not on the main reaches of the Zangbo but on a connected tributary. Gezhouba expects all four units to go into operation by the end of this year.

Zhang argues that there is a need to build dams “on the whole of Yarlung Zangbo”. It will help “manage water better and also generate a great quantity of electricity and reduce the use of fossil power and greenhouse gas emissions”. He says that hydropower projects can provide the equivalent of 250 million tonnes of raw coal. “If China wants to reduce emissions, the energy will have to come from hydropower. Although China's wind energy generation is the highest in the world, it is only equal to one-sixth of hydropower.” The proposed Motuo dam alone, he says, will provide energy equivalent to what 100 million tonnes of coal would yield.

## THE DOWNSTREAM IMPACT

India's North-eastern states, specially Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, are alarmed by China's plans on the Brahmaputra. While Assam CM Tarun



CHINA WILL GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO THE IMPACT OF DAMS ON LOWER REACHES.

**HUA CHUNYING**

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson



BUILDING DAMS IN THE NORTH-EAST JUST TO COUNTER CHINA WILL BE DISASTROUS FOR THE ECOLOGY OF THE REGION.

**TARUN GOGOI** Assam CM



Gogoi has flayed the Narendra Modi-led central government for failing to stop the Chinese dam as it would “cause irreparable damage” to India, people in Arunachal Pradesh's Pasighat recall the flood in 2000 caused by the collapse of a dam on the Yigong river in Tibet.

On June 9, 2000, the water level of the Siang rose suddenly by 30 metres, inundating almost all of Pasighat. “I had never seen such a catastrophe,” says Oyen Moyang, 51, who has farmland on the banks of the Siang at 21 Miles in Pasighat. Moyang got another shock of his life in March 2012 when he found the Siang dry near his farmland. Moyang's kin Tako Dabi, who was then the adviser to Arunachal Pradesh CM Nabam Tuki, went public suggesting that China's dams in Tibet could have stopped water from reaching Arunachal Pradesh.

However, expert opinion is divided on how China's grand plans will affect lower riparian India and Bangladesh.

Currently, there are no Chinese plans to divert the river's waters



despite persisting alarm about diversion projects. Beijing's planners have long discussed adding a western route to an ambitious 'South-to-North Water Diversion Project' that will transfer 40 billion cubic metres of water every year from the Yangtze river to the dry north. Adding the Yarlung Zangbo to this project has been shelved for now.

"The theories of China utilising the Brahmaputra through dam constructions that will eventually dry up the river do not hold true as long as these proposed projects are limited only to non-consumptive uses such as hydro-power," says Nayan Sharma, professor at the Water Resources Development and Management Department at IIT-Roorkee. He estimates that 40 per cent of the annual stream flow of the Brahmaputra comes from the catchment area in China. But there is no agreement on this figure, and Sharma stresses the need for estimates and data "to be thoroughly verified to establish the exact flow dependency on China". The Brahmaputra's tributaries within Indian territory along with precipitation in India also contribute to its supply.

### BIG DAMS vs SMALL DAMS

Experts say run-of-the-river dams such as the Zangmu project will have a minimal impact on downstream flows. However, if China goes ahead with a series of dams, and particularly a project at the Great Bend, there will likely be a long-term impact on both downstream flows and the river's ecosystem. Tashi Tsering, an expert on Tibet's water resources at the University of British Columbia, says the speed with which China is going forward with the Dagou, Jiexu and Jiacha projects is "alarming".

"It's only been a few years since projects got operationalised. Now, they are in the middle reaches. They will slowly go lower down, and then to the Great Bend," he says. A dam on the Great Bend, he adds, will "have a huge impact even if it is run-of-the-river". "The whole point of a dam on the Great Bend is to tap the huge drop in altitude of the river over a short distance. It will require blockage of water and a reservoir. The impact of a potential dam burst will be unprecedented."

"The blocking of sediment by dam means blocking of the nutrients in it



## THE GREAT DAM RUSH

China's dams on the Brahmaputra

**DAGU**  
640 MW

18 km upstream  
of Zangmu

Status Approved in  
2013, construction  
has begun

### ▶ SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE What the government is doing to count

**1** India is monitoring Chinese projects along the river using satellite imagery, which makes it near impossible for Beijing to conceal large-scale construction.

**2** Diplomatic channels are at work to expand the framework of cooperation for trans-border rivers. During Modi's May visit to China, both sides agreed to broaden the scope of the expert-level mechanism.





#### er China's moves on Brahmaputra waters

- 3 Delhi aims to counter Beijing's dams with its own projects on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh. India can sell power to Bangladesh and Myanmar. This will give India an edge over China.
- 4 The government, however, would like to wait until the 2016 Assam assembly polls before it embarks on any project on the Brahmaputra. Public perception in Assam is hostile to construction of big dams.

and it affects agriculture. Dams also obstruct passage of fish and other water species," says Debojit Baruah who teaches botany at Lakhimpur Girls' College in North Lakhimpur, Assam, a district on the banks of the Brahmaputra bordering Arunachal Pradesh.

Beijing's planners stress that these dams that aim to generate electricity—and not divert or store large quantities of water—will not have an adverse impact on downstream flows. "These dams will be beneficial to India. It has an equalisation effect on the volume of water, reducing yield in the floods season and increasing it in the dry season," Zhang says, pointing to how the US saw it as in its interests to urge upper riparian Canada to dam the Columbia river.

Even officials in India's Ministry of Water Resources claim that dams on Brahmaputra are the only way to avoid devastations caused by floods in Assam. The Brahmaputra's flow in the normal season is 40,000 cumecs, measured at Pandu near Guwahati. In spate, it touches 69,000 cumecs. "If we build a mega-dam on Siang, it will not only be able to control floods but also provide additional water during lean season," says a ministry official.

Independent experts say for energy needs India must explore hydropower potential but in ecologically sensitive areas such as the North-east, the best way forward will be construction of small multi-purpose dams. "As the North-east falls in zone five of seismic zones in India, there will certainly be concerns over big dams as dam breaks will have devastating impacts. The North-east needs power and hydropower is a clean source. So the solution can be found in several small dams instead of a few mega-dams to minimise environmental impact," says Shyam Kanu Mahanta, an expert on river dams.

#### INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH

Indian officials say they are monitoring Chinese projects and are in close contact with Beijing on the issue. "We are in touch with the Chinese side at various levels," says Indian Ambassador to China, Ashok Kantha. "Our objective is to move towards an expanded framework of cooperation for trans-border rivers. We have an expert-level mechanism



which meets and shares hydrological data.” During PM Modi’s May visit to China, both sides agreed to broaden the scope of the mechanism and exchange views on issues concerning both countries, beyond data-sharing. A senior Indian official points out that it is not easy for China to hide what it is doing on the river today compared with a decade ago due to availability of satellite imagery.

While India continues to push China diplomatically for more information through its expert-level mechanism, the fact is that in the absence of a water-sharing treaty, the scope of India’s recourse in stopping future projects is limited. China was one of three nations to vote against the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, which seeks to strike a balance between upstream and downstream interests. India had abstained from voting.

Officials in the water resources ministry admit India is certain it cannot stop China from building more dams on the Zangbo. So it now aims to counter China’s dams with its own projects on the river in Arunachal Pradesh, which India estimates has a potential of 54 GW. According to ministry officials, it will earn India a geopolitical advantage in Southeast Asia. “India can sell power to Bangladesh and Myanmar. This power dependency will give India an edge over China in terms of diplomatic and economic relationship with these two countries,” says a ministry official.

But even to start such projects, India will have to wait, at least until the 2016 assembly polls in Assam. The state has witnessed anti-dam protests leading to complete halt of work on the 2,000-MW dam at Subansiri river along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border, and before the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP had taken a position against building this dam. However,

last year Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal’s comment, saying that the government will ensure that the dam is completed, was resented even by the state BJP leadership. The BJP would not like to rake up the issue as the state is split down the middle on the debate over the ecological impact of river dams on the state. “We will create public opinion in favour of dams once we come to power after the 2016 polls. Until then, we would not like to touch this volatile issue,” says a top Assam BJP leader.

Sharma says besides the obvious energy benefits to deficit states in the North-east, India “is also aware that under international law, a country’s right over natural resources it shares

India, experts say, is pushing China towards a more robust arrangement on trans-border rivers. “The popular myth that China does not go into water-sharing agreements with others needs to be dispelled as China has signed river water-sharing agreements with Mongolia, North Korea, Russia and Kazakhstan, the most recent being signed in 2011. These agreements have been brokered without involving any international arbitration,” says Sharma.

## DISPUTE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

Brahma Chellaney, an expert on trans-border rivers and professor of strategic studies at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, notes

that India has water pacts with all its riparian neighbours except China. Treaties with Pakistan and Bangladesh contain dispute-settlement mechanisms. China’s experience in this regard is mixed. India is not the only neighbour worried about Beijing’s dam-building plans. Dams in Yunnan on the Mekong river have alarmed lower riparian Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, who have set up a joint inter-governmental Mekong River

GETTYIMAGES



NARENDRA MODI WITH XI JINPING IN XI'AN, CHINA

with other nations becomes stronger if it is already putting these resources to use”. “China has already begun first use of the Brahmaputra waters. If India does not move fast and establish its claims over water use, it could lose out in subsequent water-sharing discussions under international law.”

Yet there is danger in such a response, cautions Tsering. China will likely respond to an Indian dam-building push by speeding up its own projects. Given China’s record in executing such projects, India will be in a disadvantageous position. Doing so, he adds, will also antagonise lower riparian Bangladesh, whose support India will need if it aims to arrive at a joint management mechanism of the Brahmaputra basin with China.

The best-case outcome for

Commission to manage the river.

To the west, China’s disputes with Kazakhstan stretch back for over a decade when Chinese projects on the Ili and Irtysh rivers resulted in decreased water flows and pollution problems. While China initially dragged its feet over addressing Kazakh fears, it finally signed a treaty in 2011. This change in stance followed an increasingly close relationship between the two countries. China began turning to Kazakhstan for both energy imports and support in tackling a growing terrorism problem in the border province of Xinjiang, underlining that Beijing is indeed willing to play ball when it suits its own interests.

Follow the writers on Twitter@[anantkrishnan](#) and @[KDscribe](#)



# YOUR DOSE OF GADGETS

ALL ABOUT UPCOMING PRODUCTS, REVIEWS, MOBILE PHONES, TABLETS, LAUNCHES, APPS, PRICES AND FEATURES.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

GADGETS & GIZMOS DIGITAL MAGAZINE!

AVAILABLE ON



Available on the  
App Store





Graphic by NAOREM SANJOY SINGH

# VIRTUAL BULLIES

In which social networks do teens claim to have experienced cyberbullying?



Facebook 54%



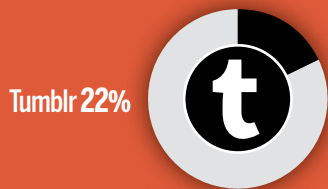
Twitter 28%



Ask.fm 26%



Instagram 24%



Tumblr 22%



YouTube 21%

Source: Rawhide.org, November 2015

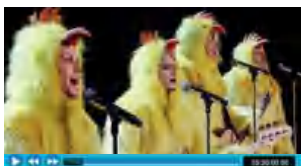
## viral video



Over 4 million watched the depiction of popular hairstyles among men over the last 100 years.



Famous documentary narrator Sir David Attenborough narrating Adele's video 'Hello' made over 2 million laugh.



Over 1 million watched a video of Alanis Morissette recreate her hit 'Ironic' with clucking noises of a chicken.

## web win

### It's a Woman's World

Over 100,000 people liked and 30,000 have shared a Facebook video of actor Emma Watson interviewing Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai at the premiere of her documentary 'He Named Me Malala'. The Web was full of praise for the women, especially for their views on feminism.



## web wow

### Game of Thorns

The Web exploded over Neil Nitin Mukesh being cast in *Game of Thrones*. While some said he had the perfect face for a royal who dies in one episode, the most tweeted response of *desifans* was that they finally understood the dour phrase often uttered on the TV show—Winter is coming.



## instachatter

### Dancing Divas



Salman Khan, who's promoting his film *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo*, had two Bollywood divas Helen and Waheeda Rahman record a dubsmash video dancing to a song from the movie. The post of the ladies dancing has over 50,000 'likes' in 10 hours.

## news now

### Stars vs Hearts

You can say a lot with a heart. Introducing a new way to show how you feel on Twitter: [blog.twitter.com/2015/hearts-on...](https://blog.twitter.com/2015/hearts-on...)

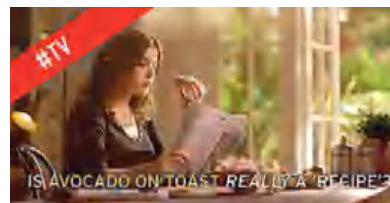


Netizens are split over Twitter changing their star icon to denote a 'Favorited' tweet to a heart. Twitter has stuck to the change, for now.

## web lol

### Next, Please!

When chef Nigella Lawson debuted her new TV show *Simply Nigella*, viewers were annoyed that one of the recipes featured was simply 'Avocado on Toast'. People took to Twitter wondering if she'll be making tea in the next episode.



## what's new App Alert

UnRoll.Me declutters your inbox by easily unsubscribing users from spam mailers.



My Fonts lets you customise fonts for your messages.



Follow the writer on Twitter @Ikummi



# SUPERSTAR ADVICE ON HOW TO BE A BETTER MAN

Tried and tested, actionable tips from the India's fittest filmstars, sportsmen and other celebrities

**BUY NOW!!**

AVAILABLE ON





# ON LAST-NAME TERMS

An insightful analysis of movements up the social ladder, and why they are slow in India

By Ashok Khanna



**The Son Also Rises—  
Surnames and the  
History of Social  
Mobility**

by Gregory Clark  
Princeton University  
Press

Pages 384

Price \$19.95  
(paperback)

Professor Gregory Clark posits a simple law that governs social mobility independent of a country's social structure or its government policy: about 70-80 per cent of a family's social status depends on its previous status and the rest is a random component. There is a biological convergence towards the mean from the elite and underclass, but the process is slow as it relies partly on intermarriage among social groups and may take hundreds of years. He tests this hypothesis successfully by analysing reams of data, going back hundreds of years in some cases, from medieval and modern England, the United States, Sweden, Chile, Taiwan, China, Japan, Korea and India. For unsurprising reasons, the

inter-generational persistence rate in India for any social class is about 90 per cent, higher than in any other country.

His results are controversial as many studies show a much higher level of social mobility, but it's especially alarming for Sweden and China. In Sweden, despite much lower inequality in wealth and income than other developed countries and free education for all citizens through university, the elites from the 18th century persist. In China, Chairman Mao's "class enemies" remain strongly entrenched in the current Communist Party and the government.

Why are Clark's results so different from many recent studies of social mobility? Well, his approach differs from the conventional analyses which focus on one or two characteristics of social status such as income, wealth, education, occupation and longevity for individual families for just one or two generations. Each aspect of this approach has elements of chance that interact to increase the probability of errors.

Clark's analysis reduces these chance elements by using surnames as the mark of social status because they capture the unobservable underlying genetic components, "social competence of families" as he calls it, that drive the observable characteristics of achievement mentioned above. He also groups the surnames into categories of social class and his analysis covers a much longer period.

His main analysis for India uses data from Bengal from 1860-2011 because it was available for a long period. The state has a mix of castes and religions that are representative of the whole country. He divides surnames into Kulin Brahmin, Other Elite Hindu, Scheduled Caste Elite, Mixed Hindu, Muslim and Poor Hindu. He finds that in representation among physicians and judges, Kulin Brahmins are the most overrepresented, but Scheduled Caste Elites are also somewhat overrepresented, while Muslim and Poor Hindus are dramatically underrepresented.

Overall, the reservation system has not been effective. It has, however, helped a small, moderately prosperous group achieve overrepresentation because the British arbitrarily classified these surnames as untouchables. For that reason, the reservation system may be restricting mobility by helping just this small

Illustration by SAURABH SINGH



group. Essentially, there has been little social mobility in Bengal—the average intergenerational persistence rate for all classes is nearly 90 per cent.

The mobility rates for Bengal are the lowest observed, lower than pre-industrial England, Sweden or China. The main reason for such low rates is the extremely low rates of inter-marriage between the elites and underclass and religions. Caste and religious endogamy is very high and persists today, although with increasing urbanisation and the spread of information technology, it is beginning to show cracks. Nevertheless, 90-95 percent of Hindus still marry within their caste.

Indians in the US are pretty much the top of the heap mainly because of the selection bias created by US policy that favours highly educated immigrants. Clark identified groups of elite surnames of doctors in the US from several countries. It shows that Hindu and Christian Indians are overrepresented tenfold relative

to their populations and bested only by Egyptian Copts. His analysis suggests that an elite group in any country will tend to retain that social status in any other country it migrates to. Because of the social status, size and education of the Indian diaspora, Clark predicts that it will be solidly ensconced in the elite social group of the US.

When it comes to policy implications Clark is not helpful. Because elites should be confident

of their status, he thinks they may be willing to be fair, earn less and redistribute more. As elites dominate the political economy of democracies, there is not much chance of that happening, especially in diverse and populous countries. It's like asking landowners to enact land reform. Promoting intermarriage across social groups is a potential answer, but that is voluntary and would take a very long time, especially in India where caste and religious barriers are formidable. Realistically, the immediate policy implications for improving social mobility are to better focus reservation schemes and make current redistribution policies more effective. Or, let nature take its course over a few hundred years.

*Ashok Khanna is a former World Bank development economics consultant*

# IN EAST WE TRUST

A former envoy to Myanmar explains why the neighbour is a key ally that should matter more

By Sandeep Unnithan



**India-Myanmar Relations**  
by Rajiv Bhatia  
Routledge  
Pages 257  
Price Rs 895

China's astonishing rise has triangulated several of India's bilateral relations in what was once a tranquil Indian backyard. Sri Lanka and Nepal, two countries once exclusively under India's sphere of influence, now see an increased Chinese presence. Myanmar, a country that shares a 1,643-km land border with India, has received investments of more than \$14 billion from China in recent years, a policy that began with Deng Xiaoping's 'Pauk-Phaw' (relations between cousins). China, it would seem, is in the driver's seat in Myanmar.

But this is clearly not the case as Bhatia, who was India's envoy to Naypyitaw between 2002 and 2005 explains. Like so many other countries proximate to larger neighbours, Myanmar has proved adept at balancing India and China. Myanmar, he says, is adept at playing the China card with the world and the 'world card' in its interaction with China. India has high stakes in Myanmar. Last year, the Narendra Modi government rebranded its Narasimha Rao-era 'Look East' policy to the 'Act East' policy, imparting a sense of urgency to relations with the significant Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) politico-economic block. If India has to act east, it will have to do so through Myanmar, gateway to the ASEAN, vital to the development of its land-locked states of the North-east and also a key energy source for India's growing economy.

This is one reason Myanmar, former Union minister Mani Shankar Aiyar tells Bhatia, matters more than Pakistan. Relations with India's eastern neighbour have, unfortunately, not received as much importance. Road, port and energy projects which have had the potential to transform India's North-east have languished for years. Bhatia charts the trajectory of relations between the two countries and explains the gradual realignment of Indian interests—from a period of criticism over the 1988 takeover by the military, to the normalisation of ties with the junta, to a new, deeper engagement with an elected civilian government five years ago.

The book, timed to coincide with Myanmar's historic November 8 election whose results are due towards the month-end, is a handy guide to navigating a high-priority spot in India's worldview. ■



# UNITED COLOURS OF CHIEF

## STAYING POWER

In the command centres of their states, they won the people's mandate again and again. Here are the longest-serving chief ministers of India:



**JYOTI BASU**  
**West Bengal**  
Five consecutive terms  
(1977–2000)

23 years



**PAWAN KUMAR CHAMLI**  
**Sikkim**  
Five consecutive terms  
(1994–to date)

21 years



**GEGONG APANG**  
**Arunachal Pradesh**  
Four consecutive terms  
(1980–1999)

19 years



**MOHAN LAL SUKHADIA**  
**Rajasthan**  
Four consecutive terms  
(1954–1971)

17 years



**MANIK SARKAR**  
**Tripura**  
Four consecutive terms  
(1998–to date)

17 years



**NAVEEN PATNAIK**  
**Odisha**  
Four consecutive terms  
(2000–to date)

15 years



**SHEILA DIKSHIT**  
**Delhi**  
Three consecutive terms  
(1998–2013)

15 years



**B. C. ROY**  
**West Bengal**  
Three consecutive terms  
(1948–1962)

14 years



**TARUN GOGOI**  
**Assam**  
Three consecutive terms  
(2001–to date)

14 years



**OKRAM IBOI SINGH**  
**Manipur**  
Three consecutive terms  
(2002–to date)

13 years



**NARENDRA MODI**  
**Gujarat**  
Four consecutive terms  
(2001–2014)

13 years



**VASANTRAO NAIK**  
**Maharashtra**  
Three consecutive terms  
(1963–1975)

12 years



**RAMAN SINGH**  
**Chhattisgarh**  
Three consecutive terms  
(2003–to date)

12 years



**G. RAMACHANDRAN**  
**Tamil Nadu**  
Three consecutive terms  
(1977–1987)

10 years



**SHIVRAJ SINGH**  
**Madhya Pradesh**  
Three consecutive terms  
(2005–to date)

10 years



**K. KAMARAJ**  
**Tamil Nadu**  
Three consecutive terms  
(1954–1963)

9 years

## FOREVER YOURS

Be it a comment, a slogan, a gesture or a sartorial statement, some chief ministers remain unforgettable across generations. Here are some:



### SONG SUNG

On August 14, 1947, Sucheta Kriplani, who later became first woman CM, sang 'Vande Mataram' in the Constituent Assembly, minutes before Jawaharlal Nehru delivered his Tryst with Destiny speech.

### WIRED CMS

Giving laptop-toting Andhra CM N. Chandrababu Naidu company is Manohar Lal Khattar, who finds the word digital at the heart of the holy book: "DI-GITA-L".



### SARI STATEMENTS

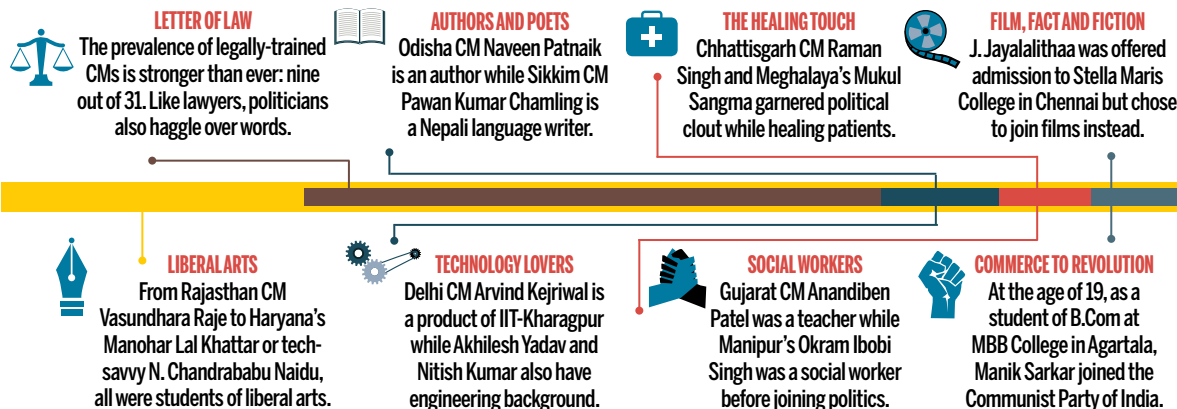
West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee made white cotton saris and hawai chappals politically-fashionable, while J. Jayalalithaa brought in cape draped over a sari.

# MINISTERS

The who, the what and the where of our regional satraps

## LIBERAL, LEGAL AND POLITICAL

Overwhelmingly students of liberal arts, many of our current CMs are also well-versed in law. What's more, there are as many engineers as writers and poets



## THE OLD, YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG

The youngest serving CM is from Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav, 42, and the oldest is from Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal at 87. The average age of a CM is 64 years, what with 17 out of 31 CMs being in their 60s.



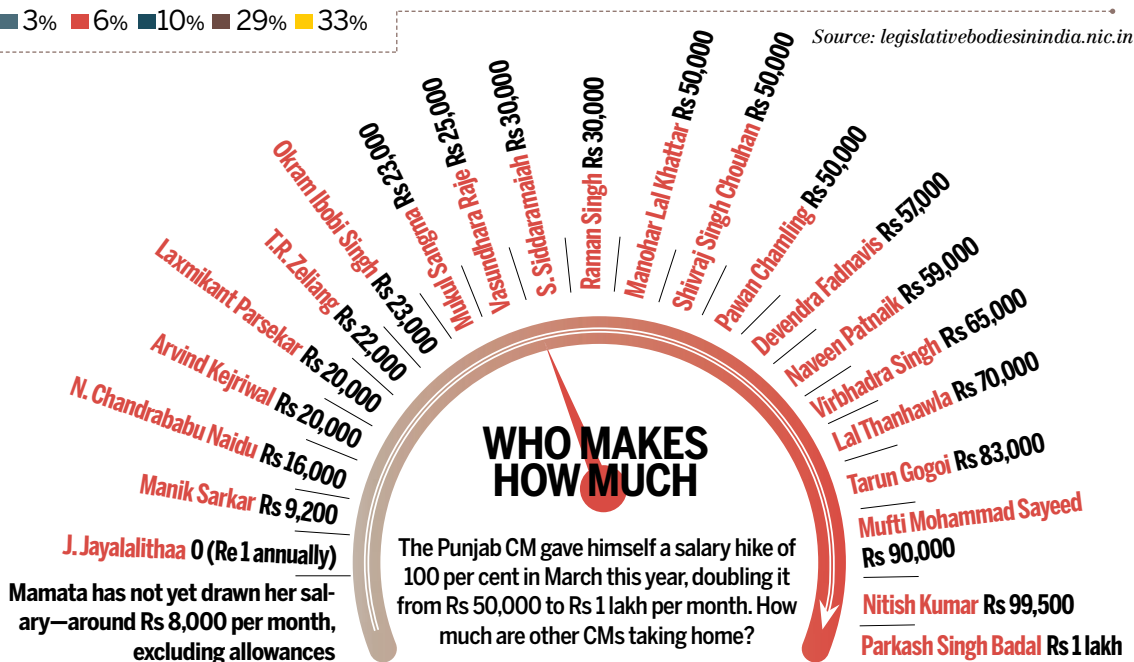
10%  
in their 40s

12%  
in their 50s

55%  
in their 60s

17%  
in their 70s

6%  
in their 80s



## DHARNA NITI

Before Arvind Kejriwal, Jayalalithaa sat on a dharna in 1993 over Cauvery waters. In 2009, M. Karunanidhi went on a fast demanding safety for Lankan Tamils.



## WATERY PRIDE

Shanta Kumar, former CM of Himachal Pradesh, is remembered fondly even today as the "Paaniwala mukhyamantri" for providing drinking water facility across the state.

## SPORT BUFFS

As a student Anandiben Patel won the Veer Bala award for her outstanding achievement in athletics. Puducherry CM, N. Rangasamy, loves playing tennis when not discussing politics.



## VASTU SUTRA

When Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat refused to move to his official residence—a 58-room bungalow in the Cantonment area of Dehradun—it became a talking point.



## THE OUTLIER

Word on the street in Bandra is the Dutt family is gearing up for actor **Sanjay Dutt** to be released prematurely from prison in early 2016 on good behaviour. Considering the number of furloughs he's been granted, when was he ever in prison, you may well ask! Sister Priya is going on a media blitzkrieg to pre-empt any bad publicity. Some people just never learn.



## SIKH SEASON



It's Sikh season everywhere. While in Canada Bardish Chagger is the only Sikh woman minister in new PM Pierre Trudeau's cabinet, in London 20-year-old **Neelam Gill**, the first model of Indian ethnicity to be cast by Burberry and who has already featured in the British *Vogue*, is the new face of upscale American retailer Abercrombie & Fitch (A&F). Gill instagrammed with delight, saying she'd worked on the shop floor at Hollister (A&F's parent company) for two years while at school. "Dreams do come true," she said. That's a fillip in a week in which the Supreme Court is considering banning Sardarji jokes!

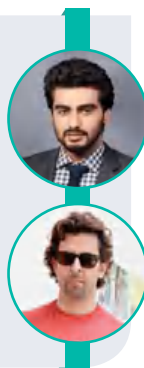
## OLD MAN BY THE SEA

One person who hasn't been having a great festive season is **Peter Mukerjee**. With the Sheena Bora murder case on eternal extension and Mumbai society not the friendliest when you have a spouse in jail, he's resorted to taking long solitary walks by the sea.



## BINGE CENTRAL

Of course our film stars binge-eat. If they once flocked to Sweetish House Mafia, then hopped to Le 15, it's Ankeeta Chawla's Eat-a-Whay in Pali Hill the likes of Hrithik Roshan, Sonam Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha and Arjun Kapoor are crushing on to this year. But will it make it into the K Jo Koffee hamper next year? That's the real test.



## BOOK YOUR YEAR

2016 promises to be a great year for the giants of Indian publishing. Vikram Seth tells us he's been so inspired by the city he will be writing a small novella set in Mumbai that will be a precursor to *Suitable Girl*. Penguin has also inked a three-book deal with **Amitav Ghosh**, two non-fiction—*The Great Derangement* and *The Invisible Hand*—and an as-yet-untitled novel.



■ Compiled by **Gayatri Jayaraman**  
Follow the writer on Twitter @Gayatri\_J



# GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ON THE GO!

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING now available on iPad, iPhone, Android, Kindle Fire, PC and Mac.



Grab your Digital Edition now!

TAP TO  
DOWNLOAD



[www.goodhousekeeping.co.in/digitalmagazine](http://www.goodhousekeeping.co.in/digitalmagazine)



**Good Housekeeping**  
HOME • HEALTH • HAPPINESS



# INDIA TODAY

DIGITAL EDITION

## THANK YOU FOR READING



## PLEASE CONTINUE TO YOUR FREE MAGAZINES



INDIA  
TODAY

NOVEMBER 2015

# home

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN SPECIAL

RNI No. DELENG / 2006 / 20557. Not for sale. To be circulated free with India Today in Mumbai, Delhi & NCR, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata. "Supplement to India Today issue dated November 23, 2015"



**WORLD OF STYLE**

Top global trends in home decor

WOMEN IN DESIGN, INDIA-INSPIRED PRODUCTS, LAUNCHES



Movie  
Reviews

Magazine  
Stories

Celebrity  
Interviews

INDIA  
TODAY  
GROUP

Latest  
Headlines

Live TV

Photo  
Gallery

Exclusive  
Videos

Breaking  
News



**Stay Updated  
with India Today App**

**Download to experience!**  
SMS **ITAPP** TO **52424**

Available on



**Visit [www.indiatoday.in/apps](http://www.indiatoday.in/apps) for more information**



# INDIA TODAY home

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:** Aroon Purie  
**GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Ashish Bagga  
**GROUP EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:** Raj Chengappa  
**EDITOR-AT-LARGE:** Kaveree Bamzai  
**DEPUTY EDITOR:** Prachi Bhuchar  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** Ridhi Kale  
**PHOTO RESEARCHERS:** Prabhakar Tiwari and Satish Kaushik  
**ART DIRECTOR:** Rajeev Bhargava  
**ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR:** Vipin Gupta  
**SENIOR VISUALISER:** Naveen Chandra Upreti  
**PRODUCTION:** Harish Aggarwal (Chief of Production), Naveen Gupta, Vijay Sharma

**GROUP BUSINESS HEAD:**  
 Manoj Sharma  
**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER (IMPACT):**  
 Anil Fernandes  
**SENIOR GENERAL MANAGER (IMPACT):**  
 Jitendra Lad (West)  
**GENERAL MANAGERS:**  
 Upendra Singh (Bangalore)  
 Velu Balasubramaniam (Chennai)  
**DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER:**  
 Kaushiky Chakraborty (East)



**VOL. 10 NUMBER 11; NOVEMBER 2015**

Copyright Living Media India Ltd. All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner is prohibited.

Printed and published by Ashish Kumar Bagga on behalf of Living Media India Limited. Printed at Thomson Press India Limited, 18-36 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana); A-9, Industrial Complex, Marsimalai Nagar, District Kancheepuram-603209, (Tamil Nadu). Published at K-9, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001. Editor: Kaveree Bamzai.

● India Today does not take responsibility for returning unsolicited publication material.

COVER COURTESY  
GRANDEUR



Photograph courtesy MISSONI HOME

## INTERNATIONAL DESIGN SPECIAL

### 32 INDIA INSPIRES

Be it funky furniture or fabrics, the sub-continent serves as a muse for global brands

### 10 THREADING A TRADITION

Jean Francois Lesage creates bespoke embroidered textiles that adorn the homes of India's rich

## ARCHITECTURE

### 36 CHANGE THE GAME

32-year-old architect Shonan Trehan is throwing the rule book out of her colourful window

## INTERIORS

### 18 THIRCE AS NICE

A look at interesting residential projects by three international design experts

## DESIGN

### 26 THE COLOUR CODE

Pick the right shade for the exterior surfaces of your home with Dulux's new range



## PLUS

2 LAUNCHES

46 LAST LOOK

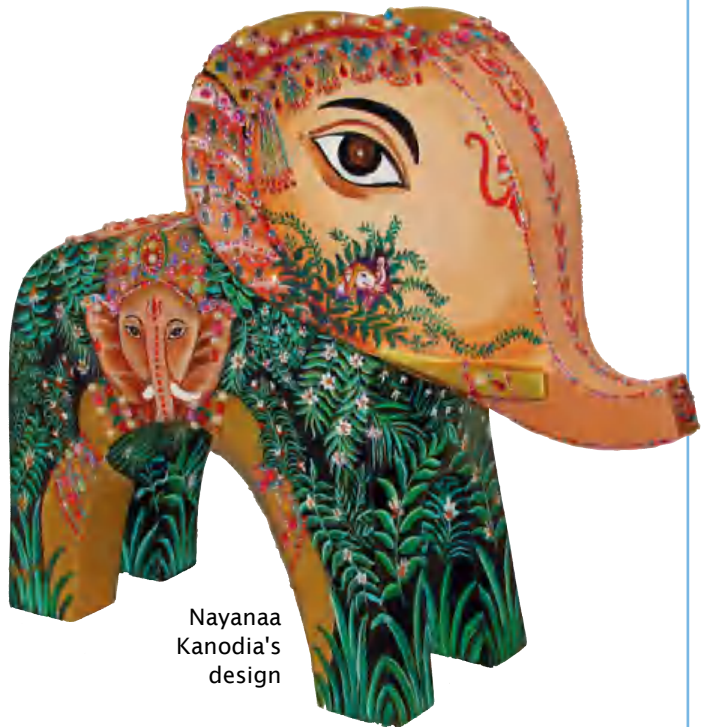


# I Spy

Your guide to the hottest new stores and products



Artwork by  
Jayasri Burman



Nayanaa  
Kanodia's  
design



Painted elephant statue  
by Amitabh Bachchan

## Artful Dècor

Maneka Sanjay Gandhi and People For Animals (PEA) have organised a fundraiser this month for Wildlife SOS to support and care for rescued elephants. Artists such as SH Raza, Nayanaa Kanodia, Subodh Gupta, Seema Kohli, Bose Krishnamachari, Jayasri Burman, Anjolie Ela Menon, Thota Vaikuntam, Laxma Goud and Paresh Maity, to name a few, along with celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar and Shah Rukh Khan have painted fibreglass elephant statues, which will be on display and sale.

**PRICE** on request

**AT** Art Alive Gallery, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi



## ◀ Black is Back

One look at international design trends and you know that black is making its presence felt in every room of the house. The kitchen is no different. No wonder, Miele has introduced a Black Wing cooker hood. Made of stainless steel and Obsidian black glass, it is equipped with powerful LED lighting to illuminate the hob. It also has an extremely efficient level of extraction with the help of 10-ply stainless steel grease filters. The filters are durable and dishwasher-proof.

**PRICE** ₹1.35 lakh

**AT** The Miele Lounge, Plaza Mall, 3rd Floor, IFFCO Chowk, Gurgaon, Haryana

## LED the Way ▼

Anchor by Panasonic has introduced Panasonic LED Colour Changing Panel Light. The new recess mounted slim square type LED Colour Changing Panel Light comes in classy white finish with anti-glare diffuser and separate energy efficient electronic driver. It operates in a wide voltage operating range from 80-330V with input voltage of 220-240V, 50Hz. It is equipped with IP 20 protection, high surge protection of 2.5KV, long operational life of 50,000 burning hours, constant current non-integral driver and polycarbonate diffuser with an option of colour tuning from warm white, daylight and cool daylight.

**PRICE** on request

**AT** [www.anchor-world.com](http://www.anchor-world.com)



## Digital Designs ▲

The new Dream Run Collection from DCTex Furnishings comprises of digitally printed bedsheets that are available in different fabric constructions and have a variety of innovative design themes such as florals, abstract, sensual, wild life, nature and travel diaries. The best part? Not only does the collection offer a plethora of alluring and chic designs, they all come in invigorating and lively colours.

**PRICE** ₹2,950 to ₹5,000

**AT** Surprise Household Linen Pvt. Ltd, 7, Ratnavali, 1st Gautan Lane, Santacruz West, Mumbai



# Smart Living

From a device that turns into an interior designer to a handy cleaning app, technology that makes you live better

By RIDHI KALE



## VIRTUAL REALITY CHECK

Homelane, an online provider of home decor solutions has launched a virtual reality-based device called the Kaleido. The device uses Google Cardboard to provide you with a 3D image. For example, if you wish to purchase a kitchen, the device will show you a 3D images of various kitchen designs based on your floor plan, where you can change the colours of the shutters and select different appliances. It allows you to walk into a virtual world where choosing between colours and finishes, countertops and flooring options, appliances and accessories, becomes easy. It's like having the entire showroom at the click of a button.

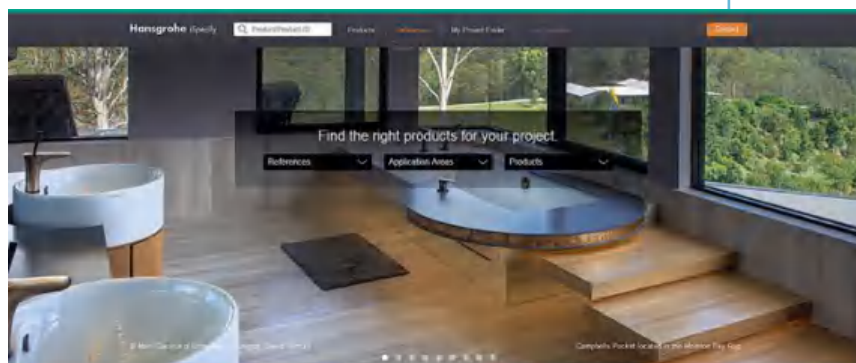


AT [www.homelane.com](http://www.homelane.com)

## PLAN YOUR BATHROOM

The new Hansgrohe website iSpecify for architects, interior designers and bathroom planners, allows for quick and efficient project specifications with Axor and Hansgrohe products. Via an easy-to-follow navigation bar on the homepage, you can begin planning. Browse through a selection of global references, view different bathroom areas, or search for specific products. If you click on one of the pre-specified bathroom situations for the shower or the washbasin, the program immediately suggests suitable products, including links to technical data and dimensional drawings.

AT [ispecify.hansgrohe.com](http://ispecify.hansgrohe.com)



## Welcome to iSpecify

Inspiration, product selection and product specification for your individual bathroom solution.

Discover bathroom solutions from internationally successful designers.

Be inspired by a selection of international reference projects that were successfully working together with

Select products that match your design concept.

Whether you are looking for a shower stall or a bidet or a bidet, as the bidet, or a bidet or a bidet

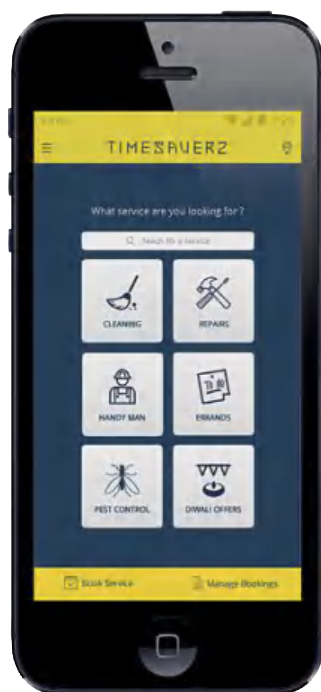
Configure your project specification and get in touch with our consultants.

Obtain your design project in clearly arranged reports and save time. Product data, images, technical

### THE DREAM CATCHER

Finding the right sleeping partner, the ideal mattress, is imperative for a good night's sleep. That's why Alphonse Reddy decided to set up a new sleep start-up called Sunday. What's different about it? It allows you to go online and choose from the already exclusive range with narrowed down options. Besides each product, user reviews, specifications, kind of support it will give your back and specifications are mentioned. Want more? Pillows come paired with the mattresses. That's not all, they also offer a free 100-day trial to help you make up your mind.

**AT** [www.sundayrest.com](http://www.sundayrest.com)



### AN ALL PURPOSE APP

The Timesaverz app came into being when its founder (Debadutta Upadhyaya) faced personal challenges of getting timely help for home-related services. With services ranging across 40 categories, the app's key areas include everything from cleaning jobs to handy-men tasks and appliances repairs. The offer services in Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Delhi and Hyderabad.

**AT** App Store and Google Play

### AFFORDABLE ART

Want to buy art that's pocket friendly, then look online. The art category of iCustomMadeIt.com features paintings, sculptures, craft items and pottery in canvas, paper, brass, marble, bamboo and terracotta within the range of ₹1,000 to ₹1.75 lakh. You can also purchase made-to-order art and craft pieces to suit a scale of varied needs of a home.

**AT** [www.icustommadeit.com](http://www.icustommadeit.com)







Experiment with a combination of black and white in both glossy and matte finishes

Photographs courtesy KOHLER

# Baths of the Future

Following trends to redesign a bathroom can be complicated but pick enduring ones that work for your home

By MOEENA HALIM

**W**hen it comes to designing the groom room, you can't blindly follow a fad. On an average, people change their bathrooms once every seven years, reveals Tristan Butterfield, global creative director, Kohler Co. "A good piece of design must be timeless," he adds. And if you choose well, you

should be able to stay right on trend. Begin by thinking about what you want the space to be—a soothing, spa-like retreat from manic life or an engaging, technologically savvy destination that helps you track your fitness levels; a futuristic, minimalist space that has no connection to the past or a place that makes you feel rooted,



This Artists' Edition Derring sink with artisanal glazes would fit well in a metallics-inspired bathroom

with a textured landscape you can instantly identify with? Once you've answered these questions, it will help you pick the best look to suit your needs. Here are five design trends Kohler Co predicts for the coming year.

### UNABASHEDLY COLOURFUL

Throwing out all traditional colour rules, this trend seems inspired by British interior decorator and designer David Nightingale Hicks, who was noted for his use of bold colours. Think bright sour green and fluorescents, of the Holi festival and of South American textile. You could apply the trend to your bathroom either by using the colour blocking technique or just going with a jumble of colours. A movement inspired by the Memphis Group (an Italian design and architecture group founded in Milan by Ettore Sottsass in 1981 that designed Postmodern pieces) is gaining prominence too. They are encouraging a reinterpretation of their 1980s designs in today's context. The design and architecture group may have been hated and misunderstood back then, but has more recently been serving as inspiration for designers like Dior, Missoni and Karl Lagerfeld.

### RETURN TO PATTERNS

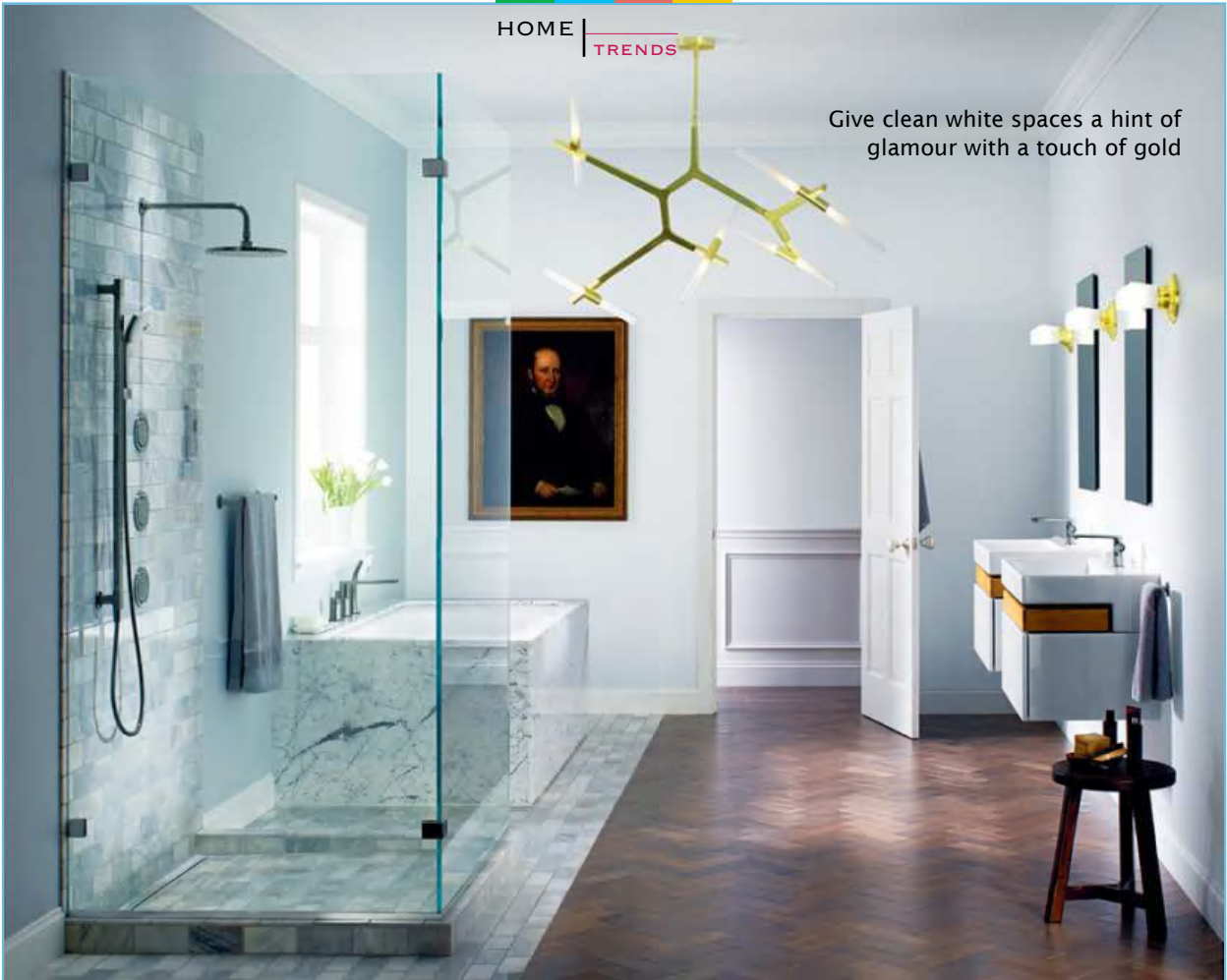
Wallpapers are back, but it is oversized patterns that are likely to be all the rage, taking a cue from California-based designer Kelly Wearstler, who blows patterns to massive scale. Reinterpret the past, mixing florals with tropical designs. Take inspiration from the banana wallpaper in the Dorothy Draper designed Greenbrier Hotel in West Virginia, and Palm Beach's typical strong tropical patterns on a white base. De Gournay's hand-painted silk wallpaper, considered too traditional and grandmotherly, is making a comeback too. It's a celebration of pattern, so even if you're going in for figured marbles for your bathroom, look out for those with the most obscure shapes. Geometric patterns continue to be popular, even as surrealist themes find a way to bathroom walls in the coming months.

### BLEACHED AND WEATHERED

Don't use one in isolation, but bring into play an entire palette of chalky colours—pinks, greys, blues—with just a touch of the 1950s oeuvre. While greys have been popular for a while, try a soft silvery grey fading into white; a touch of the extremely popular ombre effect. Think bleached neutrals, washed out colours, soft patina. Layer and add texture to surfaces; the idea is to have a sun or wind-weathered look. The ombre effect would work here too—by fading white paint into wood or using wallpapers that have a soft watercolour



Give clean white spaces a hint of glamour with a touch of gold



effect. This idea of pulling off the gloss and veneer and going back to the basics extends to a sort of elevated mundane. Take for instance the Portland-based Schoolhouse Electric & Supply, which takes old utility and industrial items, like an old-school clock or railway light, and gives them a modern reinterpretation. Using patina-patterned shagreen, or a faux version of the material, would be an interesting way to add textures.

### THE MAGIC OF MONOCHROME

American paint company Benjamin Moore has announced white as the colour of the year, and using white in totality is likely to be all the rage through the coming season. The colour fits effortlessly with a traditional or a modern look, and gives a feeling of cleanliness, of escape and a spa-like retreat. The colour, along with the washed out look, has been a popular one for a while, considering how young girls have taken to bleaching their hair silvery white. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the use of black is just as trendy. Juxtapose a matte and glossy, oily black to give two very

different effects using the same colour. Both black and white will be used innovatively this season.

### GLEAMING METALLICS

The coming year will see a celebration of metallic colours, especially golds and coppers, in everything from animal prints to velvets as well as wall coverings. A glossy chocolate brown metallic is quite likely to become a favourite too. There's also a resurgence of brass and copper, rose and champagne gold, especially with the launch of the latest iPhone. But apart from the influence of the tech world, these soft metallics are reminiscent of an old Hollywood glamour. A smoky or textured iridescence would work wonders with the use of reflective glass. And the ombre effect, perhaps going from gold to silver, would add a stunning look to a bathroom mirror.

While these trends will keep you one step ahead of the design curve, don't forget that there is such a thing as going too far. After all, the final look of the room will depend on how you interpret the trends.

# In Touch with Style

HARPER'S BAZAAR now available on iPad, iPhone, Android, Kindle Fire, PC and Mac.



Grab your Digital Edition now!

TAP TO  
DOWNLOAD



[www.harpersbazaarindia.in/digitalmagazine](http://www.harpersbazaarindia.in/digitalmagazine)

Harper's  
**BAZAAR**  
INDIA

Where Fashion Gets Personal





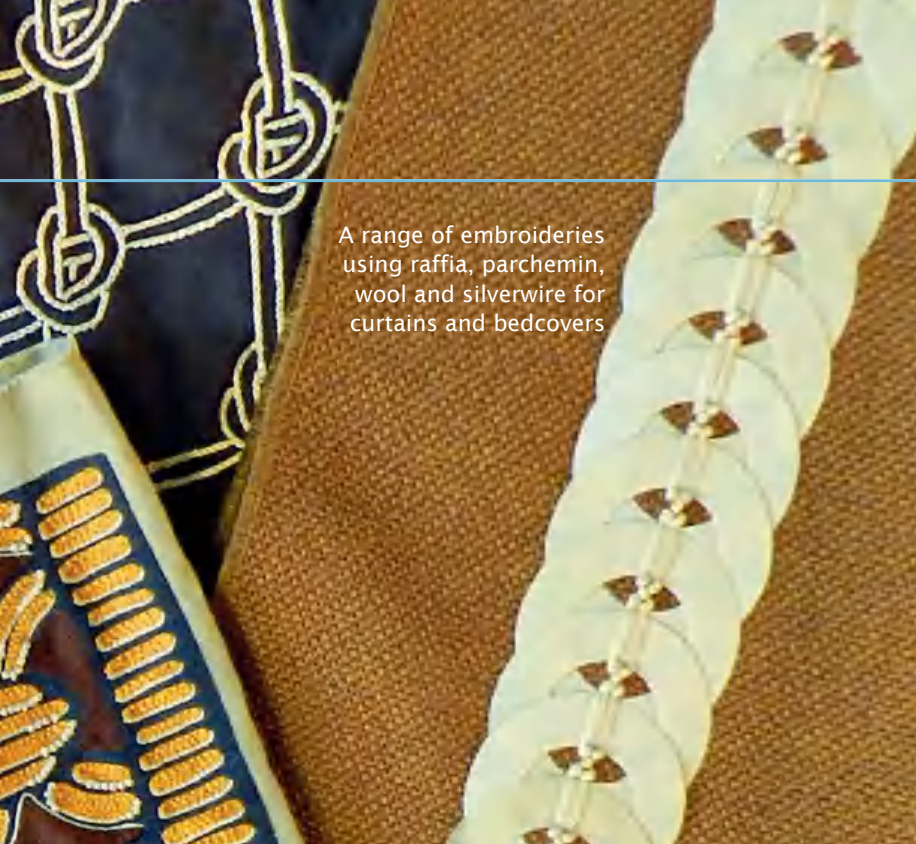
# Weaving a Saga

Designer Jean Francois Lesage found a common thread in French and Indian embroidery, creating bespoke home textiles that the world can't get enough of

By RIDHI KALE







A range of embroideries using raffia, parchemin, wool and silverwire for curtains and bedcovers

**W**hat do sashiko, blackwork, candlewick, surface, redwork and crewel have in common? They are all forms of embroidery. If you trace the history of art and craft you will find story tailors at the helm of amazing design narratives, weaving and sewing their magic through luxurious textiles. From dressing up kings' thrones and styling noblemen's beds to creating one-of-a-kind curtains and mesmerising cushions, their intricate work has left many awestruck. Part of this special tribe is Frenchman Jean Francois Lesage. His family has been closely associated with fabricating bespoke and luxe embroidery since the 1920s, when his grandparents bought the embroidery studio of Albert Michonet, the embroiderer, to Napoleon III. In fact, his father, Francois Lesage, was the legendary haute couture embroiderer, a favourite among the fashion elite of Paris. (In 2002, the Lesage family business was bought by Chanel.) Back then, Lesage junior did not want anything to do with embroidery, threads, fabrics



**ZERO B™**  
PURE WATER SOLUTIONS

Introducing

**World's 1<sup>st</sup>**  
UV Water Purifier equipped  
with ESS Technology



**UVGRANDE**

World's 1<sup>st</sup>



UV Water Purifier  
equipped with  
ESS Technology



Purification process  
ensuring pure and  
safe water



Energy stimulating  
water for healthy  
& energetic life

**ION EXCHANGE**  
*Refreshing the Planet*

SMS ZEROB to 54242,  
www.zerobonline.com  
Service Helpdesk No.: 022 2788 1234  
**DSA & DISTRIBUTOR ENQ. SOLICITED**



or shiny sequins. He studied art history at the Ecole du Louvre in Paris, and became an auctioneer for the auction house Binoche et Giquello. "I was the right-hand of Maître Binoche in charge of contemporary paintings as much as classical furniture at 21," explains Lesage. However, if you have embroidery in your blood, it will find a way to express itself. Things changed when he visited India in 1990.

### FINDING THE RIGHT CONNECTION

Lesage saw India as a place where he could settle down. Then, he met embroiders in the country, and realised that the art was similar around the world. "India concentrates one of the largest traditional knowledge about textile in the world, the techniques are endless. The sense of colours inherited from the past is amazingly sharp," says Lesage. He believes that since India and France have a history of dabbling with embroidery, the

tools are the same in the two cultures, even the embroidery frames are the same; moreover both cultures have been deeply linked for centuries through trade. "The main differences are cultural, in the 21st century a French embroiderer sees herself as a stylist in embroidery; she needs a creative work, none repetitive and always re-invented. In India, our embroiderers still worship the long and slow process of time consuming embroidered works. They are not afraid by the millions of stitches that they need to cover a large panel, which will become a curtain. They mostly like anything intricate, complex, it does not affect their patience, it is nearly like a yoga," he says.

### CREATING MASTERPIECES

Lesage set up an embroidery workshop, Vastrakala, in Chennai, with just six artisans in 1993. Today, at his workshop, 200 artisans create delicate embroidery, a result of coming together of French sensibilities and



Jean Francois Lesage (above); Vastrakala artisans working to refurbish the throne of French emperor Napoleon (left)



A play of gold and copper on the day bed and embroidered curtains

Indian hand-work. Lesage's bespoke line has on offer lavish cushions, pillows, throws, wall panels, curtains, blinds, bed covers, armchairs and sofas, but by appointment only. His repertoire includes the restoration of one of Napoleon's thrones and the king's private chambers at the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte near Paris. He was also involved in the restoration of Monaco's L'Opéra de Monte-Carlo in 2005, which Lesage completed in just eight weeks. In 2011, he recreated the luxury of the *navabs* for the Osmania Suite at The Park Hotel in Hyderabad, with its heavily embroidered bed, rugs and cushions. "At the moment we are working on a varied interesting projects, such as embroidery work in a private jet, embroidered walls in a historical palace in Germany, embroidered curtains for a museum in Washington, a collaboration with Gauri Khan for her cushion collection, traditional *lehengas* for a collector in Karnataka and exciting sampling for Christian Louboutin," he adds.

#### THE MAN BEHIND THE DESIGNS

So, what inspires him? "Anything contrasting catches

my eye. I love the opposition of an extremely traditional bed in a concrete hyper contemporary room, an abstract embroidery for the classical hotel Crillon in Paris, beautiful colours of a Mughal miniatures, frescoes in Ajanta, an old used jute bag, extraordinary brocades of Benares, the abstract forms created by a spring rain in Paris..."

#### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Lesage has also collaborated with several creative people from across the globe. A few of them include, classical raffia embroideries for interior designer Alberto Pinto, giant abstract embroidered curtains for architect Jean Louis Deniot, trendy works for architect Peter Marino, beautiful peacocks embroidered with designer Vikram Goyal and hyper realistic, 3D and *trompe l'oeil* headboards with tree barks and frangipani motifs for show flats in Mumbai with architect Niels Schoenfelder.

Interestingly, Lesage has done all this without formally learning the art of embroidery. Truly, a class apart.

**PRICE** €100 (₹7,146) onwards

**AT** [www.jeanfrancoislesage.com](http://www.jeanfrancoislesage.com)





Mogholsarai print inspired by  
Mughal miniatures from the  
India Baroque range





HOME | STYLE

# LEAVE A PAPER TRAIL

Designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee is all set to transform drab interiors into a vibrant odyssey of Indian art, craft and festivity with his new range of wall coverings in collaboration with Asian Paints.

By RIDHI KALE



**ZERO B**<sup>TM</sup>  
PURE WATER SOLUTIONS

World's **1<sup>st</sup>**

**eco-Friendly RO Water Purifier**  
Equipped with ESS Technology



**ecoRO**



**3x**

**Higher Water Recovery**

**ION EXCHANGE**  
*Refreshing the Planet*

SMS eco to 54242,  
www.zerobonline.com  
Service Helpdesk No.: 022 2788 1234  
**DSA & DISTRIBUTOR ENQ. SOLICITED**



An Indian celebration means an explosion of flavour, bright lights and hues; where colours clash with a vibrant vengeance and there's ample charm and character to keep you spellbound. Keeping this in mind Nilaya, the luxury wall covering line from Asian Paints has collaborated with fashion designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee to come up with a vivid and exquisite collection of wall coverings. The style czar has divided the collection, titled 'Sabyasachi for Nilaya' into five design narratives, India Baroque, Makhmal, Jodhpur, Spice Route and Varanasi. The wallpaper range is perfect for those who want to give their home a unique yet traditional appeal, this season.

### CREATE A HUE HAVEN

Asian Paints calls it, 'as intricate as a raga, as sensuous as the rustle of a sari, as thrilling as the rush of a *zamindar's* carriage wheels, as heady as a Mughal garden, these wallpapers ooze luxury'. And why wouldn't they? After all, shades like *madder* (rubia), amber, pearl and *narangi* (orange), bejewelled with prints like the *hazarbuti*, *jamdani*, *kalamkari*, Banarasi brocade and *tanchoi* creates a visual treat. "The best way to bring about a festive cheer in your home is to completely transform it with wallpaper. You can keep everything in the home as is; it changes the entire dynamics of your home, the way a new hair cut would change somebody's face. Every wallpaper in this collection can appeal to a differ-

The hazarbuti print inspired by Jamdani weaving



Prints from the India Baroque, Jodhpur and Makhmal collections





Kaschmir print inspired by  
lush gardens in Kashmir

ent person such as a romantic, a traveller, someone who likes antiques or a person who likes rich opulent designs and so on," says Sabyasachi.

### THE COLLECTION

The first is Jodhpur in amazing shades of blue inspired by by-lanes of the city, it spells understated elegance and sophistication. Spice Route seeks inspiration in exotic spices and mysterious tales of trade. Makhmal finds its roots in fabrics for royalty and nobility; sumptuous, sensuous and decadent. "One of the premium lines from the collection is the Makhmal range, which literally translated means velvet. The wallpaper is done in a flocking style and the design you see is *surahi* with two talking parrots on either side. These wallpapers are extremely opulent and rich and meant generally for large spaces such as hotel lobbies, large villas or for people who love the feel of expensive baroque," adds Sabyasachi. Varanasi is one of the oldest living cities in the world, so the eponymous collection draws inspiration from Peeli Kothi, where the most exotic, opulent and ethereal saris are traded every day. India Baroque stands for the opulence of Lalique, Cartier, Bentleys and magnificent palaces, resulting in a flamboyant collection of wall coverings.

### FOLLOWING THE DESIGN NARRATIVE

Each story is further divided into interesting patterns. Take for instance the Kaschmir print. "It's been inspired by the lush gardens and orchards of Kashmir along with the exotic spices, intricate workmanship and vintage carpets Kashmir is known for. The wallpaper artwork has been done in life size by the Sabyasachi Art Foundation, which supports talented artists in West Bengal and then it's been printed on an organic substrate in the UK by a company that does a lot of wallpapers for Hermes and Ralph Lauren," explains the talented designer. Another example is the *hazarbuti* print inspired by the Indian sari, which comes with many tiny multiple floral butis on it. "The *hazarbuti* wallpaper in the Spice Route collection in a tobacco hue, works very well with hand painted wood, vintage flowers and a little bit of eclecticism. It is aimed at people who are young, trendy, have a California chic aesthetic and are bohemian artists," he adds.

So, if you are looking to add colour into your living space, along with the magic of traditional Indian motifs, turn to 'Sabyasachi for Nilaya' collection for help.

**PRICE** ₹150 per sq ft onwards

**AT** [www.asianpaints.com/nilaya](http://www.asianpaints.com/nilaya)





The stunning gold side table  
is from Hudson Furniture

# Charting their own Course

They dress homes of the rich and influential, giving it their characteristic spin. A look at projects by three international names in interior design.

By RIDHI KALE

Each home has a different ethos, is individualistic, celebrating its owner's personality and showcasing design nuances of its designer. Though the three habitats featured here are like chalk and cheese, the women behind them are forces to be reckoned with in the design world. What ties all of them together is their design philosophy. A home, they all believe, ought to be about an individual's lifestyle and personal preferences rather than seasonal fads and prevailing trends. If one is a revamp of a Victorian home in the heart of London, another is all about giving a feminine touch to a swish apartment in Dallas. The third weaves art with design in a bachelor pad, a beautiful villa in Dubai. This is design at its best.

## TWIST ON TRADITION

**Kelly Hoppen, 56**

**Kelly Hoppen Interiors, London, UK**

It is not easy to become a master of visual yin and yang. But for British design superstar, Kelly Hoppen, who often infuses her Western interiors with accessories that have an Eastern bent and style, it's something that comes naturally. For those not in the know, the London-based interior designer became a household name in the style capitals of the world in the 1980s. If you take a look at Hoppen's large body of work, you realise that characteristically, she works in a colour scheme that blends neutral shades—soft taupes, rich chocolates and warm beiges—which she then contrasts with dark wood that adds rigorous linearity to the lush softness of the fabric choices (suede, wool, linen and cashmere). In this Victorian terraced house that was originally built in 1845, she has added her signature contemporary style.

Situated in the historical centre of London, spanning four floors, the house includes two bedrooms, three bathrooms, a conservatory, a gym and a beautiful outdoor space. The brief of the project was to respect the room layout orientated around the original staircase whilst bringing in modern elements. With this challenge at the forefront



The kitchen opens into a conservatory





A modern fireplace is hidden behind the dining table (left); designer Kelly Hoppen (below)



of Hoppen's mind, the designer used black bamboo floors throughout, linking the rooms together for a more fluid feel. This is complemented by the addition of strong lines with the joinery and the light, bringing the modern twist needed by the art collection to dialogue with the traditional features.

Entering through the first floor into the dining room, kitchen and conservatory, the staircase sweeps you up into the elegant reception area on the second floor with its sober and deep palette of bronze, black and white allowing the owner to change the artworks in a very subtle manner. Some strong colour in the dressing room on the fourth floor was added to bring additional vibrancy to the interiors. From the

entrance hall there is a staircase which takes you down to the guest bedroom, gym and the outdoors.

**AT** [www.kellyhoppeninteriors.com](http://www.kellyhoppeninteriors.com)

### THE INSIDE JOB

**Devjani Cox, 51**

**Inspired Rooms by Devjani Cox, Dubai**

Devjani Cox loves design, drama and everything that lies in between. She started out as an interiors writer and stylist and is an established name in the field. During this time, she also got a chance to give finishing touches to the interiors of a few high-end projects. "I have been in the business for 15 years. I first started off writing about interiors and doing a lot of styling



The living room filled with art, craft and stylish furniture

Photograph by ATUL PRATAP CHAUHAN

for magazines based in Dubai. It was almost a natural transition for me as more and more people started approaching me to do their homes and that's how my designing business started," explains Cox. Testing her skills was a well-healed client, whose bachelor pad in the iconic Palm Jumeriah in Dubai became her canvas for creativity.

Cox had the following facts to start with, the Atrium villa was 6,500 square feet in size with five bedrooms; and the client a luxury-loving, discerning gent, wanted a screening room with a 150-inch 3D screen, high-end but simple furniture and luxury without ostentation. Since it was a rented space that meant serious interior design work sans any restructuring. "The client gave me carte blanche and trusted my instincts completely," says Cox. Further, the client, an India born, Qatar raised, advertising world professional was attracted to live here because of its seaside location and its stunning views of the sea. "I realised



Interiors expert  
Devjani Cox



quite quickly that the space had to metamorphose into his hideaway by the sea; one that would take him away from his hectic work life,' adds Cox.

Whilst she didn't have a specific game plan at the outset, she was absolutely sure she didn't want to go the route of other South Asian designers who seem to want to cocoon spaces in heavy window treatments with way too much going on. So, the first thing Cox did was decide not to block the view with heavy drapes, instead she opted for sheers. From the outside the home looks fairly traditional, but step inside and minimalism rules. The walls are bright white except for the master bedroom where a dark concrete shade dominates. Nothing but pure linens in masculine

shades, were used in this room.

"Everything in the home is pared down but with quirky flourishes in the form of graffiti style artwork, sculptural Noguchi sofas, a huge wooden sculpture brought in from the Ivory Coast, a table made by a Brazilian artist, the list is endless," adds the stylist-turned-designer. Designing maestros Charles and Ray Eames play starring roles as their La Chaise and bent plywood chairs occupy pride of place in the living area. Dubai-based Imad Bechara's artwork lends colour to one wall in the living room. A large table, which seats ten, made of old railway sleeper wood, serves as the dining table. A carefully curated collection of Oriental antiques, the phenomenal Flos Taccia Lamp,

Photograph by ATUL PRATAP CHAUHAN

The dining table is made from old railway sleeper wood





The Nymph Chandelier from Koket illuminates the dining

Laura Lee  
Clark Falconer  
strikes a pose



sculptures by Nelda Gilliam are some of the other accessories used in the home. All in all, the house becomes a work of art.

AT 314, Dune Centre, December 2nd Street, Dubai

### PASTEL POTPOURRI

**Laura Lee Clark Falconer, 51**

**Laura Lee Clark Interior Design, Dallas, USA**

The right blend of abandon and restraint is what makes interior designer Laura Lee Clark Falconer so special. Her Dallas-based design firm, Laura Lee Clark Interior Design has become a one stop shop for churning out unconventional ideas for homes across the globe. "I find that careful editing is essential to good design," says Falconer, adding, "I like to create unexpected combinations of finishes, fabrics, and custom-designed furnishings while integrating antique elements, all the while striving for a sophisti-





Soft subtle shades give the bedroom a calm feel

cated look.” A student of the Parsons School of Design in Italy, she offers her clients more than 20 years of experience in high-end residential design; much like the home featured here.

One of the most expensive residences in Dallas happens to be located in the swish Museum Tower. In one of the upper floors lies a beautiful apartment done in soft pastel shades. It’s warm, inviting and above all feminine. Before Falconer worked her magic on it, the space was drab and dull. The client was moving from California to Dallas and worked closely with Falconer to achieve the end result. “The owner was walking us through and commenting on cosmetic changes she wanted to make. Certain areas weren’t exciting enough. It was neutral and a blank slate. She wanted to make some changes to customise it in addition to furnishing the whole thing; she wanted to make it her own,” explains Falconer.

Her team first focussed on the entryway. They decided to open the home by designing a geometric-patterned wall that greets people when they exit the elevator. From the beginning, the client had her heart set on a fireplace; so a fireplace was added to the other side of the entry wall. The remaining remodelling focussed primarily on the bathroom and the kitchen, which were originally rather masculine, boring and dark. Since, the client loves to entertain; Falconer wanted the kitchen to be more exciting. A glamorous-yet-functional Poggenpohl kitchen with satin glass on the upper cabinets was added. One of the most stunning spaces in the house is the dining area, where Koket’s Nymph Chandelier, which comprises on an array of golden brass filigree butterflies, makes a statement. Most importantly, the end result was a beautiful mix of art, design and craft.

**AT** [www.lauraleeclark.com](http://www.lauraleeclark.com)

00:41



**INDIAN SEXUAL DESIRES  
AND KINKS UNMASKED!**

**GET THE REAL STORIES ONLY ON THE  
'10 YEARS OF SEX SURVEY  
DIGITAL MAGAZINE'**

**KNOW MORE**

[WWW.INDIATODAY.IN/SEXSURVEYMAGAZINE](http://WWW.INDIATODAY.IN/SEXSURVEYMAGAZINE)





# OUTSIDE INTERESTS

Your home is a reflection of who you are, your tastes, preferences and stories. Every homemaker constantly strives to transform a house into their dream home. So, here are four exclusive colour palettes recreated (after a lot of research) on the basis of architectural designs and life-

styles that inspire, be it classical architecture, dynamic modern buildings, a home surrounded by greens or a home residing in the tranquillity of the coastal life. Now, no matter where you live your dream home can come to life with Dulux by simply choosing one of these exquisite palettes.



## MODERN CONTEMPORARY

Inspired by the balance and steadiness achieved by simple linearity in form and function, this palette offers a rare mix of greys and darker muted hues. Expressing bold aesthetics and style, this brings you a world of infinite possibilities where bright pop colours give life to washed greys and cool neutrals. Get experimental with stone-based texture finishes from the WeatherShield Signature range to make a unique statement at your doorstep.



Mute Rain I 10RR 65/023



Snow Field I 00NN 72/000



Signature Finish I Rare Amethyst



Signature Finish I Black Diamond



Carolina Strand I 30YY 69/048



Signature Finish I Grey moonstone



## COASTAL CHARM

Inspired by the tranquillity of the seas, sun-kissed beaches and the warm and lively coastal living, this palette is replete with aqua blues and sunshine yellows. Beautify your roofs with rich and intense sunrise and electric blue tiles, which take you on a seaside journey.



Champagne Sparkle I 35YY 81/174



Nova White I 10BB 83/017



Mendelssohn Concerto I 50BG 76/068



Sunrise I 5624



Electric Blue I 5411



Signature Finish I Crystal Gem

## TROPICAL RETREAT

Walk away from the urban jungle and let nature be the inspiration for your tropical haven. Find your peace of mind amidst a range of invigorating colours, from muted greens and olives to the hues of pebbles and sand, to warm and welcoming dark browns. Clad your roofs with terracotta tiles to complete your living-close-to-nature experience.



Antique Bisque I 60YR 76/105



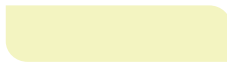
Terracotta I 5693



Modern Meditation I 90YR 83/026



Signature Finish I Black Diamond



Spring thaw I 90YY 83/179

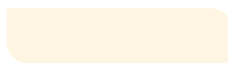


Renaissance I 5952



## CLASSIC ELEGANCE

This palette speaks of timeless beauty and sophistication of the classical architecture. Exquisite, yet classic, this includes softer tones of beiges and creams, and the ageless off-whites, which can be enhanced with decorative stone finishes from Dulux's WeatherShield Signature range.



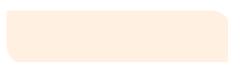
Quite Solitude I 03YY 86/021



Signature Finish I Rare Amethyst



Whisper Bluff I 20YY 83/063



Right White I 90YR 83/026



Signature Finish I Earth Stone



Signature Finish I Rustic Ruby





Both the fainting chair and coffee table are from US-based Adrian Pearsall





# Pop Goes Design

The travelling gallery by Nancy Gabriel and Guillaume Excoffier, combines contemporary pieces with vintage treasures, creating a melange of luxury and glamour. Paris plays muse and venue.

By RIDHI KALE

A city charged with romance and emotion, which is at once a movie set and an ode to lavish living, serves as the perfect backdrop for a luxe pop-up shop. So, if you are fortunate enough to be in Paris this month, then head straight to the Christofle's flagship store, where you will find the travelling gallery of Gabriel & Guillaume. The 17th-century Christofle maison is itself a white-and-gold homage to French luxury and excellence and therefore is an ideal host for the savoir-faire. This is Gabriel & Guillaume European debut. The concept of Gabriel & Guillaume is based on the mixing of styles, combining contemporary pieces with vintage treasures that are all gathered in the same temporary space. "An eclectic mix is what is interesting to us, curating objects from different periods and mixing them in a smart way. This is what gives your home personality and a strong identity," says co-founder Nancy Gabriel.

## BACK TO THE START

Guillaume Excoffier launched his St-Germain home store, Guillaume in 2013, as a testament to his passion for American Art Deco and other vintage pieces. It quickly became a Parisian favourite. One of his early visitors was Gabriel, a producer of advertising films and cinema in Paris and devotee of design, art and ceramics. Both shared the same zeal for design and together, they decided to embark on a new adventure. The duo came up with an original project and created Gabriel & Guillaume.



Nancy Gabriel (left) and Guillaume Excoffier

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXIS CHERIGNY



Get home insurance worth Rs. 10 lakhs\* from Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, every time you choose Dulux Weathershield for your home.

[dulux.in/protection](http://dulux.in/protection)







A French mercurised mirror, an Italian day bed and a Hungarian vase all find space here

### TRAVEL TO UNRAVEL

The gallery is a veritable invitation for decorative travel as their world harmonises around the combination of glamour, luxury and decorative arts from the seventeenth century to the present day. Therefore, to showcase the best the world has to offer, the pair travels extensively, searching for the best design objects they can source from Europe and the US. They held their first pop-up in Beirut in 2013 and following its success, once again set

up shop in the city in 2014. After Paris, next spring, they're holding another pop-up in Beirut. The idea behind it is to not have a permanent space, but to embark on a journey, wherever their love for design takes them. "We don't want to be like a gallery, with five pieces by one designer," says Excoffier.

### THE SHOWCASE

More than 180 pieces fill the space and move seamlessly from big ticket, signed works such as a pair of brass coffee tables from 1970s Italian legend Gabriella Crespi to ceramics by the late Hungarian artist Livia Gorka and unsigned lamps and accessories. The floral décor is enhanced by the unique selection of both designer and anonymous pieces. The show has been divided into mock set-ups with themes. The first room is an Italian winter garden. In the second room, a dreamlike spirit predominates with a carpet inspired by the legend of Leda and the Swan, designed by Marguerite Rivet. The last room combines all the ingredients of an eclectic interior telling the story of an adventurer who travelled the world bringing back treasures unearthed in countries far away.

### WHAT'S ON OFFER

Exhibition highlights include a Crespi Cubo Mágico table in polished brass from around 1970; an André Arbus screen in lacquered wood from 1939; a 1987 Martin Szekely Neotu edition Stoleru sofa and armchair; and a Bugatti fireplace with a mirror from around 1900. Don't miss

the carpet of Leda and the Swan by Marguerite Rivet, which is custom-made to order. The exhibition will also present pieces from contemporary designers such as Jean-Louis Deniot, Stéphane Parmentier, Fabrice Ausset, as well as exceptional works of art from the Galerie Mitterrand by Donald Judd, Sol Lewitt, Claude Lalanne and Niki de Saint Phalle. One thing is clear, the pop-up shop will leave you spoilt for choice.

**AT** [www.guillaumestore.com](http://www.guillaumestore.com)

**MEN'S HEALTH**  
DIGITAL MAGAZINE  
ON SALE NOW!

AN AGES-OF-MAN SPECIAL  
**HOW TO LOOK GREAT IN YOUR 20s 30s 40s**  
**Men's Health**

JUNE 2014 | ₹100

THE MAGAZINE MEN LIVE BY

**FROM  
FAT TO  
FLAT**



FOUR MH GUYS LOST  
THE FLAB AND WON!  
YOU CAN TOO!

**FOODS THAT  
BOOST ENERGY**

**GET DRUNK  
TO DETOX, P43**



GAURAVARORA  
"When I started, I had no  
confidence, no friends, no  
girlfriend" P64

**MORE SEX  
BETTER SEX**  
IN YOUR BEDROOM  
TONIGHT!

**TURN  
STRESS  
INTO  
MONEY**

**FREE!**  
32-PAGE  
**BIG  
MUSCLE  
GUIDE**  
WITH THIS  
ISSUE

**EARN  
MORE,  
WORK  
LESS**

ISSN No. DELONG 0096 18841  
**MensHealth**  
www.menshealthindia.com



**PLUS! VIDEO GAMES THAT CAN DOUBLE YOUR SEX DRIVE P60!**



**INDIA'S LARGEST-SELLING MEN'S  
MAGAZINE WITH NUTRITION SPECIAL  
AND AN EXCLUSIVE 32-PAGE  
GYM-FREE MUSCLE GUIDE**

Now available on iPad, iPhone,  
Kindle Fire, Android, PC & Mac

TAP TO DOWNLOAD

Available on the  
App Store


ANDROID APP ON  
Google play

For all other devices, visit [www.menshealthindia.com/digitalmagazine](http://www.menshealthindia.com/digitalmagazine)









# INDIA AS MUSE

From home textiles to furniture, here's a round up of international products inspired by motifs and materials from the sub-continent

By RIDHI KALE

## HOME TEXTILES Mission Cover-up

The collections from UK-based Zoffany find their inspiration in the rich and diverse textiles of India. In this image the sofa, throw and a few cushions are from the Granada collection, based on an elaborately woven silk velvet brocade produced in 1884. Granada incorporates pomegranate motifs and ornate trellis reminiscent of the medieval textiles, which inspired the design. Today Granada is printed on a heavy textured linen to give an antique effect. The material is 100 per cent linen. The curtains, footstool and a few cushions are part of a collection called Indian. First produced in 1868-70 as a wallpaper Indian was based on the indienne prints of the 18th century. Indian now comes in three dramatic colours on printed linen union and is also available as a wallpaper. The material is 60 per cent linen, 30 per cent cotton, and 10 per cent nylon.

**PRICE** on request  
**AT** [www.zoffany.com](http://www.zoffany.com)





## KITCHEN ▲

### Cooking up a Storm

Featured here is the Eraclea Kitchen by Arte Veneziana for Rivalto Home (based out of Italy). It is a harmonious contrast between the warm texture of durmast wood cladding on the doors of the spacious wall cabinets, and the brightness of the eight large drawers of the sink base and large kitchen island, covered with extra clear bevelled handcrafted mirror with floral engravings. These floral engravings have an interesting story. They found their inspiration in the henna drawings Indian women get done on their hands. The key players in this collection are chests, cabinets, consoles, tables, chairs, doors and chandeliers.

**PRICE** on request; **AT** [www.arteveneziana.com](http://www.arteveneziana.com)



## ◀ WARDROBE Out of the Closet

How is this for visual opulence? A mother of pearl armoire with a larger-than-life, artisan hand-carved peacock meticulously engraved and delicately finished in gold leaf. The national bird of the country serves as inspiration for this exquisite piece. Rich, luxe materials are staples of Indian aristocracy (maharajas and nawabs of yore) and as they make their presence felt in this closet, one can't take your eyes off it. Created to grace the most regal of living spaces with its elegance and splendour, titled Camilia from US-based brand Koket, it opens to an antique mirror finish composed of two adjustable shelves and four drawers. This one's definitely for the lavish loving.

**PRICE** \$17,130 (₹11.15 lakh)

**AT** [www.bykoket.com](http://www.bykoket.com)

**FURNITURE ►****A Marble Marvel**

Agra is home to one of the most celebrated monuments in the world, the Taj Mahal, a beautiful marble mausoleum. Inspired by its soft and smooth yet mesmerising form, Portuguese luxury brand, Brabbu came out with the Agra series of tables, consoles and displays. Featured here is the Agra Display, which just like Taj Mahal is an impressive display of craftsmanship and elegance. The delicate work of the robust white stone (Estremoz marble) softens the imposing structure, while touches of brass reflect golden warm tones to the polished surface.

**PRICE** €4,370 (₹3.14 lakh)

**AT** [www.brabbu.com](http://www.brabbu.com)

**FURNISHING ▲****Pillow Talk**

Elephant rides, deep, rich colours and plush fabrics are key features of an Indian odyssey; mix that with the craftsmanship of French brand Hermès and you get the Beloved India Rouge range. Shown here is a cushion from the collection in a shade of terracotta, made from a mix of silk, viscose, cotton and linen. The back is cashmere, while inside dacron has been used. Perfect for both formal and informal areas.

**PRICE** on request

**AT** G-1 & 1st Floor, Bharat Insurance Building,  
15A, Horniman Circle, Fort, Mumbai





# SPACE CRAFT

Young, energetic and full of offbeat ideas, architect Shonan Trehan of Mumbai-based Labwerk is making her own rules



The open plan living room in the Undone House in Mumbai

By RIDHI KALE

One can argue that every dessert is essentially the same. After all, they rely on staples like sugar, flour, butter and eggs. Gastronomes though would be appalled at such a suggestion. They would say that it is the quantity and quality of the ingredients, coupled with the skill of the chef can either give rise to a masterpiece or create cringe-worthy, inedible food. The same principle works in the field of architecture. Seemingly simple ingredients, bricks, cement and mortar, take fluid form and creative shapes that stretch the limits of imagination in the hands of skilled architects. On the flip side, the same raw mate-





Architect Shonan Trehan (above); sun-bathed family room in Aperture House in Delhi (below)

rials can turn into banal, mundane and unimaginative structures. The latter, unfortunately can be seen across the length and breadth of the subcontinent. Case in point, the myriad 'builder' flats and bungalows that suffer from the malady of sameness. But before you consign good design into the waste bins of history, there seems to be a ray of hope in the form of 32-year-old architect Shonan Trehan. The founder of Mumbai-based practice Labwerk, Trehan's experiments with silhouettes, materials and colour to give rise to design that defies rules and convention.

### THE FOUNDATION

Before starting her architectural practice, Trehan learnt the dynamics of craft, skill, technique and inquiry at the Rhode Island School of Design. She then went onto complete her Masters in Architecture from London's The Bartlett school of the Built Environment. In 2010, after a brief stint teaching, Shonan established Labwerk, an architectural and interior design firm. "I wanted to start a studio for young architects, to work in collaborative environment. We would all crowd around an endless roll of paper rolled down



a long table and have an idea sketching jam session,” says Trehan, adding, “When we assemble an idea bank as response to the project brief, this ensures that a specific and unique departure point. This also serves as the creative compass for the duration of the project.” No wonder then that Labwerk has been at the receiving end of several awards and accolades. “IIID (Indian Institute of Interior Designers) has one the most respectable juries and a rigorous selection process; they have recognised us almost every year in last couple of years.”

### UNCONVENTIONAL APPROACH

What sets Labwerk apart is that it has no specific style that they would like to identify with. The work Trehan and her team does is always a response to the client’s needs, inspiration from the site and from drawing on popular culture. Their rather unusual modus operandi involves giving their clients questionnaires from which they glean what their priorities are. Then the whole team sits together, brainstorm and sketches to come up with an idea bank that they then present to the clients. “Each of our projects is an exploration, a creative endeavour. This is our signature ethos, which does not necessarily result in a recognisable visual style,” explains Trehan. The result? In the last five years, they have worked on nearly 57 projects. “This pace of work has accelerated our learning curve. We have had some exciting material developments, such as a self structuring masonry system. We have been fortunate to have clients that have been ready to take risks with us. This has chartered a much more unpredictable design journey.”

### DESIGNING DREAMS

The first project that Trehan undertook was a home for a highly design-informed client. “I had to walk a fine line between, pushing creative boundaries and delivering a sound project. Having a creative client, I realised how interactive, responsive and productive an architect-client relationship can be,” she explains. Since then, the firm has developed a rather laudable repertoire that ranges from residential, commercial, healthcare and hospitality projects.

You can gather that Labwerk doesn’t like to play it safe by taking a look at the structures they have designed. Take the Undone House in Mumbai for instance. In this space they wanted to create an elevated garden contrasted by a social, industrial loft space. So, many internal partitions were gutted, standard veneer doors were stripped down and turned inside out, the entire false roofing and a number of walls were ripped out, and Italian marble flooring was covered with custom made wood flooring to give rise to the final design. Play house (a home for an artist and a textile maker) in New Delhi is another such example. “The experience is layered with narrative and spirit. The private spaces are



Clean straight lines define the Reflection House in Delhi



A vibrant living room in the Play House in Delhi



organised around a central courtyard, which provides a sheltered outdoor social space for the family. Embedded in the design, are intricate surprise details like a perched bird inlaid in stone on the edge of a sink counter," says Trehan.

Equally alluring is the Happy Cow Apartment in Mumbai. Two mirror apartments were integrated into a home for an Indo-Dutch couple. The central space was conceptualised as a cloud of light and air. The non-private space is a white expanse with segments of activities nestled within, such as a library, a window seat, a cooking area and an eating space. The Inset House in New Delhi is another eye-catching project. Externally, a glass and wood screen inset was added; internally, the raw texture of the concrete and brick was exposed to offset the large scale wood-glass external screen.

### IT'S NOT ALWAYS SMOOTH SAILING

"Being a young firm we don't get the opportunity to pitch for large projects. Pre-qualification requirements for most tenders do not even allow us to make a submission. This is frustrating, as we should at least have the chance to compete for these projects. There are very few open competitions for architecture projects. We try to over deliver, this is very satisfying for both us and the client," adds the young architect. Another problem they face is changing the mindset of the clients. "We need clients to believe in possibility of a unique contemporary Indian architecture identity as well," says Trehan. Clearly, what sets Labwerk apart is that their designs are functional, funky and fabulous.

**AT** Dara Villa, 1st Floor, Mamta CHS, AB Nair Road, Near Juhu Post office, Juhu, Mumbai

Movie  
Reviews

Magazine  
Stories

Celebrity  
Interviews

INDIA  
TODAY  
GROUP

Latest  
Headlines

Live TV

Photo  
Gallery

Exclusive  
Videos

Breaking  
News



**Stay Updated**  
**with India Today App**

**Download to experience!**  
SMS **ITAPP** TO **52424**

Available on



**Visit [www.indiatoday.in/apps](http://www.indiatoday.in/apps) for more information**



# FLOWER POWER

Whether you want to gift a bouquet, make an innovative hamper, hang them in pots or create a centerpiece, learn how to pair the right blooms

Connect three vases using twigs so that they look like one cohesive unit



**ZINA MODY**  
Flower Designer  
The Bloom Room

Creating a perfect flower arrangement is like hitting all the right notes in a song. Get one note wrong and you make people want to cover their ears. Similarly, place an odd flower and the arrangement will probably find its way to the garbage can. Every party host knows that the right combination of blooms have the power to create a magnificent centerpiece; every man knows that the most fragrant bouquet will keep him out of the dog house; every aesthete knows that nothing lifts up the room more than a collection of floral beauties.

### THREE'S COMPANY

In this arrangement (below), three vases, one green hydrangea, five Annie black red orchids, one green anthurium, one twig and one stem of bottle brush have been used. The flower assembly is all about connecting one to another so they look like one cohesive arrangement







and not three stand-alone pieces. The Annie blacks and twigs are an excellent way to achieve this connection. The arrangement is a concept, which can be used in many different ways, with multitude of containers. Here, a LSA vase has been used, which can be used in a variety of combinations. You can also reuse bottles or use fish bowls glasses from your kitchen. Basically, anything you can lay your hands on. The tricky part is to cut the flower stems according to the size of the vase. Always cut the stem very little each time to prevent over-cutting. Place it in a container to see if it works and won't topple over. Let some flowers droop over the vase. You can try this with the orchids as well as they are very hardy but not the hydrangea as it tends to droop easily and needs a lot of water. The orchids can be entwined with each other to give the sense of a thick single stem. The anthurium and bottle



Use a tray to arrange blooms with a festive flavour (top); flowers add that something extra to a gift hamper (above)



A staircase and the area under it are good places to dress up with flowers

brush break the monotony of the orchids and balance the colour, so as not to make them too overpowering.

**PRICE ₹1,100** (approximately for the flowers)

### A QUICK-FIX

This arrangement (previous page, top) has been made keeping in mind the long festival season. You need a leather tray, rose-shaped candle, clear glass square vase with light pink crystals to help keep flowers in place (and to add another element), a thin ribbon, a long needle, pearls and flowers and foliage such as Song of India, pink hydrangea and green mukara orchid to complete this look. All you have to do is place the ingredients creatively on a tray for a stunning look.

**PRICE ₹6,000** ( for the complete look)

### MAKE A GIFT HAMPER

The third arrangement (previous page, bottom) is a champagne hamper and consists of four hydrangeas, 10 stems of schefflera leaves, 10 stems of berries, jute and a cane basket. Of course, you need to add your choice of bubbly to the mix. While it is a complicated pairing and requires an eye for detail, there are many ideas you can pick up. First, use unusual flowers to give your gift an interesting spin. Second, don't just limit yourself to blooms; jute, foliage and berries but try and add other interesting elements.

**PRICE ₹3,000** (cost of cane basket not included)

### BRING THE GARDEN INDOORS

One of the cardinal mistakes people make is to limit themselves to a vase or a basket. When it comes to flowers, the world is your garden. In this image (left) we have used a staircase as a receptacle for the various flowers vessels, plants, twigs and barks, thereby creating a garden feel, indoors. The yellow chrysanthemums and pink sweet Williams have been put in bunches on their own. There is also potpourri, which has been placed in glass balls hanging from the ceiling. Don't miss the terrariums and baby succulents. Price on request

While some of you might be able to replicate the above arrangements, many might want to give up with the first misstep. Remember, while there's a lot that can go wrong when pairing flowers, following a few easy rules does the trick. First, avoid using too many different kinds of flowers as mixing and matching can lead to disastrous results; create clusters of blooms instead of loosely arranged flowers; give your stems an angled cut to create a straw-like hydration system; and most importantly, change the water every other day.

**AT** The Bloom Room, Hampton Court, Shop no 4, Wodehouse Road, Colaba, Mumbai



# IT'S GREEK TO ME



Picture a majestic Greek column. Now imagine if it were to break into several pieces giving rise to attractive pieces of furniture. That's exactly how Italian brand, Gufram, the makers of this architectural furniture envisioned it to be. Basically, the polyurethane pillar separates into three parts. The upper part of the column called Capitello is a luxurious chaise longue, the middle piece titled Attica, is a cosy seat with a dotted black and white cushion, and the base, Attica TL is a cylindrical tapered shape coffee table with a bifacial glass surface, opaque on one side and a mirror on the other. The modular system is neoclassical in design with a pop appeal. The best part? When not in use, simply stack them back together.

**PRICE** ₹2.04 lakh onwards; **AT** Scarlet Splendour, 9B, Wood St, Kolkata

MASTERS OF TECHNOLOGY | SINCE 1873\*

\*Founding year of Carl Nestler, since 1956 part of GROHE. More on [grohe.com](http://grohe.com)

NEW



## GROHTHERM 1000

ULTIMATE ENJOYMENT.  
UNRIVALED PERFORMANCE.



... Master of Technology, tests the built-in GROHE CoolTouch® technology, which ensures the shower surface stays at a safe temperature despite the flow of hot water.



GROHE  
TurboStat®



GROHE  
CoolTouch®



GROHE  
EcoJoy™



GROHE  
StarLight®

# SWITCH TO AUTOMATIC

## And Say Goodbye to Manual Temperature Mixing

- **MORE Comfort** - Perfect water temperature always
- **MORE Safety** - No scalding
- **MORE Savings** - Up to 50% water savings

GROHTHERM THERMOSTATIC MIXERS.  
100% SHOWER ENJOYMENT. GUARANTEED.

1800 102 4475 | VISIT [GROHE.CO.IN](http://GROHE.CO.IN)

*Pure Freude an Wasser*

**GROHE**



# INDIA TODAY

DIGITAL EDITION

## THANK YOU FOR READING



## PLEASE CONTINUE TO YOUR FREE MAGAZINES





INDIA  
TODAY

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

# SIMPLY GUJARATI

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



RAJAT JAIN, FASHION  
CHOREOGRAPHER AND  
PRIYANKA CHAURASIA,  
STYLIST

## BEAUTY AND THE BRIDE

OUR GUIDE TO THE LATEST WEDDING FASHION TRENDS



**Editor-in-Chief**  
Aroon Purie

**Group Chief Executive Officer**  
Ashish Bagga

**Group Editorial Director**  
Raj Chengappa

**Editor-at-large**  
Kaveree Bamzai

■  
**Senior Assistant Editor**  
Aditi Pai

**Editorial Team**  
Rewati Rau, Kavyanjali Kaushik

**Photo Department**  
Shailesh Raval, Vikram Sharma

**Photo Researchers**  
Prabhakar Tiwari, Satish Kaushik

**Art Director**  
Jyoti Singh

**Design**  
Vikas Verma,  
Bhoomesh Dutt Sharma

**Production**  
Harish Aggarwal (Chief of Production),  
Naveen Gupta, Vijay Sharma

■  
**Layout Execution**  
Ramesh Kumar Gusain  
Pradeep Singh Bhandari

**Group Business Head**  
Manoj Sharma

**Associate Publisher (Impact)**  
Anil Fernandes

■  
**IMPACT TEAM**

Senior General Manager:  
Jitendra Lad (West)  
General Managers:  
Upendra Singh (Bangalore);  
Velu Balasubramaniam (Chennai)  
Deputy General Manager:  
Kaushiki Chakraborty (East)



Photograph by DANESH JASSAWALA

## COVER STORY

**The Wedding Designers**  
Five experts design looks for the wedding season.

**s-3**

## BUZZ

**Into the City**  
Four things to look forward to.

**s-9**

**Cover photo by DANESH JASSAWALA**

Location GULMOHAR GREENS COUNTRY AND GOLF CLUB Location decor PRAYOG  
Make-up, hair and styling RAJAT JAIN AND PRIYANKA CHOURASIA

# OUR PICK of the month

## Ahmedabad Flea Market November 27 and 28

Touted as one of the biggest flea markets till date, this one's a definite go-to event. Set against the backdrop of the Sabarmati river, this market aims to enlighten youngsters about the rich cultural heritage of Ahmedabad through the flea market medium.



You can shop for cheap knickknacks, house tools, clothes, gift items and more.  
At Sabarmati Riverfront, Ashram road, Ahmedabad

**Want to tell us about an event? A new store? A restaurant? People doing interesting things?  
Anything newsworthy? Please email us at: [simplygujarati@intoday.com](mailto:simplygujarati@intoday.com)**



# THE WEDDING Designers

GUJARAT'S BRIDES ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH STYLES AND LOOKS THIS WEDDING SEASON. FIVE EXPERTS DESIGN LOOKS FOR THE BIG DAY.

By ADITI PAI

## Save the Date

Rajat Jain and Priyanka Chourasia,  
founders of Prayog

**G**UJARAT'S COUPLES ARE all set to bring freshness into the wedding photo album with casual save-the-date and pre-wedding shoots. It's the only time you can let your hair down and have fun with your partner without the noise and rituals surrounding the wedding. "Tell the story of your relationship through your looks," says Rajat Jain, 28, a fashion choreographer and wedding specialist in Ahmedabad. The look, therefore, is more casual.

### GO INTERNATIONAL

Jain's business partner and fiancé Priyanka Chourasia, 25, a stylist and fashion consultant, recommends a western look to the pre-wedding event. So, it's all about tuxedos and stylish gowns and bridesmaids and balloons.

### GOING PLACES

If beachside destinations call for casual floral prints, golf course shoots are usually more formal with gowns. "It's a time to be yourself and have fun away from the prying eyes that follow a bride throughout the wedding," says Chourasia, who picks a flowing red, off-shoulder gown for the save-the-date shoot.

Rajat Jain with his fiancé  
and business partner  
Priyanka Chourasia



## Sangeet and Mehendi

Bhakti Patel, fashion blogger and founder of *Oomphibian.com*

**S**INCE YOU PLAN TO DANCE the night away to the latest Bollywood and Gujarati numbers, keep the *sangeet* look simple. “It shouldn’t restrict your movements and yet make you stand out because you are the new bride,” says Bhakti Patel, 22, a student of fashion at the Raffles Institute. Inspired by casual style, she started her blog *Oomphibian.com* three months ago. When it came to choosing the *mehendi* and *sangeet* outfit, Patel picked what would be considered rather unconventional for wedding wear—a brown cotton silk *ghagra-choli* paired with a chikankari dupatta with *badla* work on *gaji* silk. “Brown isn’t a wedding colour but has a warm earthy charm and goes well with the fall season. So, wear it for the *mehendi* or *sangeet*,” says Patel.

### LOW KEY STYLE

Don’t empty out your jewellery box; go easy with the accessories. A *maangtika* instantly ups the bridal charm so make sure you just pair it with a statement ring. So, if your blouse has embroidery, skip the neckpiece and wear long earrings instead. “Accessorise the face so you don’t have much on your hands and are comfortable,” says Patel.

### COMFORT FACTOR

Patel suggests focusing on the comfort factor while choosing your trousseau. “As a bride, all eyes will be on you so you cannot wear something that makes you uncomfortable,” she says. The colour palette has changed for this season with pastel and floral ruling traditional wear. “Stay away from neons,” she says.

OUTFIT: PREET COUTURE LABEL



Bhakti Patel in  
a silk *ghagra-choli*



Anal Patel in a bright green *ghagra-choli* by Nilesh Parashar

## The Nuptials

Anal Patel, makeup consultant, stylist and founder of Orange The Salon

**F**ASHION TRENDS TAKE a backseat and tradition rules at the *phas*. So, it's invariably a sari or *ghagra* in conventional celebratory colours such as reds, pinks and greens. Stylist and makeup expert Anal Patel picks a bright green *ghagra-choli* from Nilesh Parashar's highly recommended store Nautanky and dresses it up with heavy traditional jewellery pieces like the *passa*, kundan necklace and *maangtika*. "The *passa* is an amazing jewellery piece and is really popular this year. It has a regal elegance about it," says Patel, 27, who dresses up to 30 brides a day at her salon, Orange.

### STYLE IN SIMPLICITY

While traditionally, brides are loaded with layers of makeup, Patel recommends to-be brides to keep it simple. "All eyes are on the bride and if there is excess makeup, she can look artificial," she says. Smokey eyes add to the drama of the look so experiment with colours on the eyes rather than just blacks and browns.

### NEW LOOK

Auspicious reds, pinks, yellows and greens are the colour of the nuptials ceremony. Patel recommends coral shade for this season. "It enhances the Indian skin tone and is yet a celebratory colour," she says. Hairdos too are getting a makeover this season; the staid bun makes way for stylish braids this year that gives the hairdo a youthful touch. So, if pre-wedding shoots are all about casual floral outfits and flowing tresses, weddings are about stylish braids.

Outfit NAUTANKY Make-up, jewellery and styling ANAL PATEL AND ORANGE THE SALON



## The Brunch

Juhi Bansal, founder of  
*Closetbuddies.com*

**T**HE RULE FOR BRUNCH DRESSING IS—be comfortable. So, opt for a nice easy-to-wear gown with minimal jewellery, like what Juhi Bansal, 33, picks for this shoot. The fashion blogger and founder of *Closetbuddies.com* wears a dark green gown by Ahmedabad's noted designers Shyamal and Bhumiika, paired with earrings and an ornate watch. "Don't look like a dressed-up bride just yet; play with interesting cuts and funky fabrics," she says. Since you'd be mingling with guests over a lazy brunch, wear something light and easy to carry. Go for a simple dress and jazz it up with statement jewellery. "Don't follow trends blindly because you will still go back and see your wedding pictures years later. Stick to the classics," says Bansal.

### ACCESSORISE WELL

Since the outfit is minimalist, you can play up the accessories. Here, Bansal picks a bright red clutch that offsets the subtleness of the dress. Use a statement ring or a bracelet watch to complete the look without over accessorising. Afternoon dos call for light subtle makeup so accentuate just one feature and tie up the hair in a wide swept waterfall braid, which is the hair trend for the season.

### EARTHY TOUCH

"Go for earthy muted colours since they go well with the autumn winter fashion trend," says Bansal, who focusses on the 'girl next door look' on her blog. Since she set up *Closetbuddies.com*, among the first few fashion blogs in Ahmedabad in 2012, Bansal has collaborated with brands like Vero Moda, FCUK and Amazon to showcase fashion trends to the city's young audience.

Juhi Bansal in a dark green gown  
by Shyamal and Bhumiika

Location: HYATT AHMEDABAD Outfit: SHYAMAL AND BHUMIKA  
Watch: HOUSE OF MARIGOLD  
Earrings: MANISH ARORA FOR AMRAPALLI  
Clutch: PAPILLON CLUTCHES





## The Reception

Heena Somani, image consultant and grooming specialist

**W**HEN YOU'RE DONE WITH the heavily traditional *ghagra-choli* for the nuptials, the reception is a time to experiment with flowing Indo-Western outfit or gowns says Heena Somani, 24, an image consultant and stylist who picks a blush pink gown from Ahmedabad's multi-designer fashion store Monsoon. With a western silhouette and heavy Indian embellishments with zardozi and sequins, the outfit is a fusion of Indo-Western style. "The reception is the final function after the celebrations so that must be your best outfit. And gowns are in fashion," says the Ahmedabad-based entrepreneur who has honed her styling skills at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology and the London School of Fashion. The reception is a good occasion to experiment with colours too. While ceremonial dressing demands the auspicious yellows, reds, bright pinks and greens, you can opt for more subtle shades for the evening reception.

### ACCESSORISE RIGHT

If you're opting for heavy embroidery and glittering sequins work, keep the jewellery simple. A statement neckpiece and bracelet, especially in gemstones that compliment the hue of the dress, keep the attention focused on the outfit.

### COLOUR PALETTE

Somani tells brides to bring in Champagne gold, emerald green and dusty pinks into the trousseau. "Don't stick to navy blues and royal pinks," says Somani.

Outfit: MONSOON THE DESIGNER SHOP Jewellery: KK JEWELS Make-up and styling: HEENA SOMANI



Heena Somani sporting a dusty pink outfit





Sculptor Ratilal Kansodaria's creation

# SCULPTING HIS STORY

SCULPTOR RATILAL KANSODARIA TALKS ABOUT HIS JOURNEY FROM HIS VILLAGE TO AN EXPO IN CHINA

By ANURITA RATHORE

**S**culptor Ratilal Kansodaria, 52, recently returned after participating in a six-week Public Sculpture Symposium in China, where as many as 60 sculptors from 25 countries had come together. The Symposium offered the artist an international platform to interact with world artists and to understand sculptures.

During his visit to China for an exhibition in 2014, Kansodaria had observed that despite plenty of greenery and water in the land, it had no birds. And so, when he was invited for the Symposium, he decided to 'make' birds. "Each bronze bird is 1 to 2 feet long; and alongside is

a lady, feet on the ground, trying to feed water and pulses to these birds. Symbolically, the woman desires to reach for her dreams, fly high, yet stay rooted," says Kansodaria.

Of the 25,000 entries from across the world, only 21 artists were invited. Being the only Indian, and one among 21 in the world, definitely made him feel good. And then, his sculpture titled 'Spiritual Force' was also the "biggest" and declared "most novel". Ask him where it all began and he says, "I was born where art surrounded and ruled us. My mother would make toys, especially during festivals. She did wonderful, intricate embroidery as well. My father was a poet in the royal family of Suryapratapgarh. My mother too

became popular after she designed costumes for them. Later, we moved to Premgarh near Gondal and the atmosphere of art ruled our home."

While Kansodaria has the ability to spot art in life around him, he attributes his keen thought process and creativity to someone special. "My father studied moustaches; he was able to tell how and what profession a person would undertake by studying the moustache he sported. He had even called on a miniature artist and got him to paint moustaches of different kinds. He therein described the man's disposition, likes and inclinations. It is one form of iconography; we call it *samudrik shastra*," says Kansodaria, sharing a twist his life could have taken. "My village folk were preparing me to study medicine. So in my teens I was exposed to literature, art and poetry. Luckily for me, my father let me pursue art. I began making one sculpture a day (often mud, at times limestone) from the day I got in to standard sixth. Besides my parents, the village folk too encouraged me. If I carved in wood or stone, they'd get me all kinds of wood and stone pieces. I was called to make portraits of any big officer who visited our village," he recalls. Back then, Kansodaria didn't even know that sculpting was a field of study or that one could make a career out of it. "Someone suggested I go to MSU Baroda and pursue Fine Arts. I really wanted to meet well-known sculptor Raghav Kaneria, and to my good luck, I learnt he too was looking for me at MSU's Faculty of Fine Arts. I took my works to him in a tractor," he exclaims. "And guess what he told me? Even his final year students didn't have as much stuff as I had," says the sculptor, who went on to study Masters in Fine Arts from MSU, and later taught there as well.

So, did he come across any artist with a story as interesting as his? "Most artists are stories themselves. Each one different from the other," he sums up.

# THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

# 4



## 1 STAGE IS SET

November 28

A two-hour long comedy play in Hinglish backed by power-packed performances by renowned theater personalities like Achint Kaur, Sadiya Siddiqui and Saurabh Shukla, this hilarious play is about the time when a man is given the opportunity to turn his fate around and break free from his boring monotonous life, and the consequences that follow.

**WHERE** Surat Municipal Corporation, Timaliwadi, Nanpura, Near Kanaknidhi complex, Surat.

**TIMINGS** 4 p.m.

**TICKETS** Rs 300 to Rs 2,500



Photograph by DANESH JASSAWALA

CAFE REVIEW/ CHAI SHOP

## 2 Chai Time Memories

Afternoon tea is sacrosanct across the state. And if served with a huge helping of *khakhra*s, *vadas*, *theplas*, *paapdi*, *gaathiya* or *dhoklas*—it can really make a Gujarati happy. So when Hyatt Regency decided to make its way into Ahmedabad with their glamorous new property and included a 24-hour Chai Shop amidst their other, upscale restaurants, it had to be worth a try.

► **CHAI-COFFEE** The small but impressive menu boasts of a variety of estate teas and coffees apart from some amazing international blends as well as a range of herbal tea blends. The beverage menu also has some interesting mocktail mixes—cross between a mocktail and your healthy grandma's *kaadha* or *ukaala* as they are called in Gujarati. So there is a tulsi orange mojito and an *adraki* peach drink. And of course, how could a chai shop in Gujarat not have the teatime staple, masala chai complete.

► **SNACK CHARMER** Food wise, the place doesn't disappoint with its Kutchi Katka—a gourmet take on your regular roadside *dabeli* or even the *methi na gota* and *handvo* which are cooked to perfection and topped with an epicurean twist. The Paneer Ka Pasanda is a delicious bread *pakoda* stuffed with a *paneer* filling and is a must-try. For non-veg lovers, the café only has one dish on offer—the Chicken Tikka Pav, which is again a super scrumptious, spicy stir fried chicken layered generously between two soft pieces of *laddi pav*.

► **WE LOVE** The Chai Shop is housed in one corner of the hotel, and has great décor and ambience with a glass awning surrounded by a small water body. It also has a small retail section which offers a variety of breads, pastries and cakes to go.

**Price** Rs 1,000 for two people  
**At** The Chai Shop, Hyatt Regency, Usmanpura, Ashram road  
**Tel** 07940171235 ■ **By Kalgi Patel**





Photograph by DANESH JASSAWALA

RESTAURANT REVIEW / MISSISSIPPI CAFE

### 3 Music Meets Food

For all those who have ever complained about the lack of a decent hangout spot in the city or the dearth of great music, Mississippi—the music café promises all of it and more. Started by Mehul, a student of New York Film Academy and a music lover himself, the café is a platform for young musicians to showcase their talent by performing live gigs before an enthused audience. Every weekend, it plays host to a local band and sees a full house.

► **GRUB TALK** The cafe's menu comprises many low calorie and healthy options. From a DIY salad bar that lets you pick six condiments to soups, made from locally produced fresh ingredients. They also have pre-plated salads. While the menu is very limited, the food is fresh and tastes great. The hot favourites on the menu are sandwiches, rolls, wraps and bagels. Apart from the usual red velvet cupcakes and chocolate cupcakes, they also have Davidoff Espresso cup for all those who want indulge in something decadent and sinful.

► **MEAL FOR TWO** Rs 1,000 for two At Ground Floor, Hotel Dev Corporate, Off C.G. Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad

■ By Kalgi Patel



### 4 CITY SCAPES

November 3 to December 9

The play *Kadak Badshahi* is back on popular demand. This epic story unravels the rise and fall of the once prospering textile mills of the city and through brilliant narration, magnificent light and sound work.

**Where** Natrani Amphitheater, Darpan Academy, Usmanpura, Ahmedabad **Tickets** Rs 500

**"Simply Gujarati brings to you the best of lifestyle in Gujarat!  
For your brand to be visible with our editorial surround".**

Simply get in touch with:

Ms. Khushboo Mehta  
khushboo.mehta@intoday.com  
08401844834



# ART SCENE AT ITS BEST

Art collector Anil Relia talks about the art scene in the state, which has witnessed a sweeping change over the years

**T**he art scene in the state has witnessed a sweeping change in the last couple of years, be it in terms of exhibiting art or buying it. I recently exhibited the seventh edition of my Indian portrait series and will soon be doing the eighth, ninth and tenth editions. While a few of the artworks from the series were gifted to me, most of the paintings were from my personal collection, bought from scrap dealers, artists and art dealers. I had never imagined that I would do a series of portrait exhibition but when I had enough to showcase (about five years ago), I developed a story on how portraiture in India has grown. In fact, the first show of portraits exhibited here, titled *Tasveer*, was in the year 2000.

In 2010, I saw an exhibition of Indian portraits at London's National Portrait Gallery, which inspired me to do one here. It was well-received and thereon, I have continued with the series, showing about 50 to 60 works in each edition. I don't sell any of these; I clean, pack and unpack and want to turn this collection into a museum in Ahmedabad.

My interest in art wasn't something I had inherited. Looking back, I realise my desire to paint, draw and collect art was pretty strong from childhood. During my school days, I would often be found drawing; I would see Ravi Varma prints, copy some and paste them up on my wall. The seeds lay within and the passion for it took me to MSU's Faculty of Fine Arts. I studied Applied Arts majoring in Serigraphy and Photography in the early 1970s. Back then, I would attend shows of artists Bhupen Khakhar, Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh, Jyoti Bhatt, Jeram Patel, Ratan Parimoo and K G Subramanyan. I remember buying an artwork worth Rs 400 while in college (I got Rs 200 from home and the rest through Rs 50-a-month instalment).

Back then, nobody thought of art as an investment. A career in art was most unthought of. Even my family couldn't come to terms with it. We actually learnt of MSU's Faculty of Fine Arts through a visitor who had come home and saw one of my works on the wall; he suggested I enroll into the college.

While in MSU, I decided to whole-heartedly pursue my interest and set up a screen printing unit in the hostel, where I began making greeting cards and selling

them. Soon after, my father took me back to Surat to join the family tea business. After going back to Surat, I went to Mumbai for some work but took the opportunity to apply in an advertising agency which didn't come through. I finally got a job in Ahmedabad at Bidhan Advertising, where I worked for six months and really enjoyed myself. I got my luggage, including my screen units, from Surat and for the first Diwali there, printed greeting cards for my brother's tea company. His partners loved it and handed me a cheque of Rs 501 with which I opened my first bank account. I then launched a small company, Archer, in 1985 and started making wedding and greeting cards. Mudra School of Fine Arts opened its doors around the same time and I got to do good work with them. NID conceived an exhibition titled *My Land My People* (part of Discovery of India) and the panels for the exhibition were screen printed by me.

Slowly but surely, things started moving on the art front. At times, artists would visit the city and I would attend their exhibitions at Sanskar Kendra and Contemporary Art Gallery. I would buy from scrap dealers too. I bought a Parsi portrait for about Rs 150 in 1986 and kept in touch with art dealers. Soon, I bought another portrait not knowing it was by Raja Ravi Varma. It is only when painting conservator Rupika Chawla was home one evening that she told me I was lucky to have found Ravi Varma's work by chance. A few days later, Anjolie Ela Menon, Rini Dhumal and Renu Modi came home and confirmed that it was of Nanabhai Haridas, the first Indian judge during the British rule. I guess my portrait collection began taking shape then.

In 1992, I was doing a serigraph for BV Doshi in my studio when MF Husain came to meet him; we got to know each other. A couple of years down the line, he saw *Hum Aapke Hain Koun* and decided to make a film with Madhuri Dixit. He started making serigraphs in our studio and would often come to Ahmedabad and stay with me. I grew closer to him 1994 onwards and increasingly learnt about the art world. From artwork to understanding an international artist, auction houses and art business, the world opened up for me.

Up till 2002, art sold in moderation. Soon Indian art began appearing in international auctions, be it at

## GUEST COLUMN



ANIL RELIA  
Art Collector

**BACK IN THE  
1970s, NOBODY  
THOUGHT OF ART  
AS AN INVESTMENT.  
A CAREER IN  
ART WAS MOST  
UNTHOUGHT OF.**





Anil Relia with his  
portrait collection

Sotheby's, Christie's, Bonhams or Saffronart, and was visibly a lot better. The demand increased and people wanted to buy art as a social status. The price of artworks doubled up and more people turned buyers. Between 2002 and 2005, Mumbai art houses started the concept of art mutual funds as investment, where many investors were Gujaratis. Money was doubling up and investors were buying a lot of work to eventually sell it off at a better price. The market was over-flooded and this resulted in recession in art.

Suddenly, around 2008, art stopped selling enough and several artist-gallery associations broke. Artists began selling works to buyers directly, often at half the price, and yet the market didn't gain momentum. After about five years, in 2012, art began establishing itself again. Buyers became more aware of the artist's background and often they would just see the size, buy the work and go out to sell it. Post 2012, understanding the artwork before buying it became the investor's second nature. The fad for art faded and only those genuinely interested in artworks began flourishing.

There are several factors that paved the way for this. A large number of Gujaratis spread across the world attended big auctions, and paintings, like for example, FN Souza's Birth were sold for Rs 27 crore from their collection. With media covering exhibitions across the country and abroad, it widened the scope for art awareness. This further propelled

the desire in art dealers and investors to acquire a good piece of art, enjoy it aesthetically and financially and then perhaps sell it.

Even artists who buy and collect art do so for these reasons—families get to carry the legacy of Indian culture and pass it on to the next generation. In 1995, a 2x3 ft Husain work was sold for Rs 4 lakh. In 2002 it was for Rs 20 lakh but today it could be for as much as Rs 60 lakh. From 2012 onwards, there has been a sweep and people like to evaluate on the basis of hype. I recall how a gallerist in Delhi offered to sell a Bhupen Khakhar work for Rs 75,000 in 2001 while I offered Rs 60,000 for it. In a month's time, I received a calendar with this work printed on it. I liked it enough to ask him to sell it to me for Rs 75,000. Around the same time, Bhupen Khakhar's cancer escalated and he passed away in 2002. Just before he died, the gallerist asked me back for his work and offered Rs 1 lakh for it. Since I had liked it and bought it for my personal collection, I didn't

want to sell it. Later in 2012, I sold the same work for Rs 8 lakh. Today, the same work may be worth Rs 20 lakh. The art world doesn't cease to surprise you, yet it is good work that fetches popularity and money.

From where we stand today, it is evident that awareness for art is growing rapidly. Besides a number of galleries, there are art shows and symposiums leading it all up the path.

■ As told to Anurita Rathore

**UP TILL 2002,  
ART SOLD IN  
MODERATION.  
SOON INDIAN ART  
BEGAN APPEARING  
IN INTERNATIONAL  
AUCTIONS.**

INDIA  
TODAY

A MONTHLY CITY MAGAZINE

# SIMPLY MUMBAI

## D-DAY DIARIES

PEOPLE BEHIND  
THE CITY'S HOTTEST  
WEDDING TRENDS

ANEESHA THADANI,  
CHOREOGRAPHER





**Editor-in-Chief**  
Aroon Purie

**Group Chief Executive Officer**  
Ashish Bagga

**Group Editorial Director**  
Raj Chengappa

**Editor-at-large**  
Kaveri Bamzai

**Associate Editor**  
Moeena Halim

**Editorial Team**  
Rewati Rau, Kavyanjali Kaushik

**Photo Department**  
Mandar Deodhar, Danesh Jassawala,  
Vikram Sharma

**Photo Researchers**  
Prabhakar Tiwari, Satish Kaushik

**Art Director**  
Jyoti Singh

**Design**  
Vikas Verma,  
Bhoomesh Dutt Sharma

**Production**  
Harish Aggarwal (Chief of Production),  
Naveen Gupta, Vijay Sharma

**Layout Execution**  
Ramesh Kumar Gusain  
Pradeep Singh Bhandari

**Group Business Head**  
Manoj Sharma

**Associate Publisher (Impact)**  
Anil Fernandes

**IMPACT TEAM**  
Senior General Manager:  
Jitendra Lad (West)  
General Managers:  
Upendra Singh (Bangalore);  
Velu Balasubramaniam (Chennai)  
Deputy General Manager:  
Kaushiki Chakraborty (East)



Photograph by DANESH JASSAWALA

## COVER STORY

### The Handcrafted Wedding **s-3**

If you're preparing for your big day this wedding season, here are some of the people you should be looking to for help.

## CITY BUZZ

### Into the City **s-9**

Five events to look forward to.

## TRENDS

### Tracking Tea in the City **s-12**

Here are three new tea houses that are likely to change the game for *chai* in the city.

Cover photo by MANDAR DEODHAR

# OUR PICK of the month

## A Trial and an Error December 2

FATS TheArts' latest production, 07/07/07, is a devised play based on the written accounts of an Iranian girl Reyhaneh Jabbari, who stabbed a man in self-defense after he tried to rape her. Jabbari spent seven years in prison, during which she was tried for pre-meditated murder and found guilty by the court. "We wish to express the reality of every Reyhaneh and every justice system that failed," says director Faezeh Jalali. At Experimental Theatre, NCPA, Nariman Point  
Tel 66223724 Timings 7.00 p.m.



Want to tell us about an event? A new store? A restaurant? People doing interesting things? Anything newsworthy? Please email us at: [simplymumbai@intoday.com](mailto:simplymumbai@intoday.com)

# A HANDCRAFTED WEDDING

IF YOU'RE PREPARING FOR YOUR BIG DAY THIS WEDDING SEASON, HERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP

By MOEENA HALIM

## MOVES LIKE MADHURI

**Aneesha Thadani, 30**

*Twirling Moments*

**S**angeet ceremonies, with their potent blend of dance, drama and drinks, seem to have become an indelible part of weddings.

Expected to be the most fun night of the celebrations, choreographer Aneesha Thadani has a big responsibility resting on her shoulders. But the classically trained, Madhuri Dixit fan, who choreographed her first wedding dance while still in college, can think of no better way to win her bread.

Thadani predicts the lip dub is going to be the next big thing. A combination of a flashmob and a dubsmash video, lip dub involves people lip syncing and dancing to a popular song. At a wedding celebrated in Bangkok last year, Thadani screened her first lip dub video and is certain it will be more popular in the upcoming season. "The only challenge is that it is time consuming and is difficult to co-ordinate considering it involves large groups coming together," says Thadani. Shot earlier, the video is meant to be screened at the sangeet, she adds.

**Contact** 9892059202

*recreate.events@gmail.com*

**Cost** Rs 85,000 onwards

Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR

Choreographer  
Aneesha Thadani



## THE DREAM TEAM

Rishi Rochlani, 29

Yamini Shah, 27

*The Wedding Designers*

**E**nsuring outrageous entries, coming up with creative wedding favours and identifying an offbeat destination before it becomes the next big thing, young wedding planners Rishi Rochlani and Yamini Shah know exactly how to make a wedding unique.

The duo, engaged to be married in quite the *Band Baaja Baaraat*-like twist, have been event planners for over a decade. "The first wedding we planned was for a cousin of mine in Chicago," recalls Rochlani. Through the years, they have found that the only way to make an experience unique is to design it according to the couple's personalities and weave the theme according to their love story.

That being said, it is the grand entrance that is becoming a norm. "Earlier it was just during a *sangeet* ceremony, but now the couple wants a grand entry in every function. We have had couples who want to make their entry on a boat, a helicopter, and even on a jet pack," says Shah. The groom riding on a *ghodi* is passé too. "We have a groom who wants to come riding on a Harley and 100 hired artistes to follow him on Harleys," says Rochlani.

Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur have been Rajasthan's golden triangle for destination weddings, but the duo believes Bikaner is likely to be the next big thing. The gorgeous palace where films *Band Baajaa Baraat* and *Khoobsurat* were shot is in Bikaner.

The only thing that has prevented the city from being more popular is connectivity, reveals Rochlani.

**Contact** [theweddingdesigners.in](http://theweddingdesigners.in)  
Cost Rs 8 lakh onwards

Photograph by DANESH JASSAWALA Location courtesy SHIRO, MUMBAI

Wedding planners Yamini Shah and Rishi Rochlani



■ Designer Payal Khandwala



## BANARASI BRIDE Payal Khandwala, 41

Payal Khandwala

Comfortable, luxurious, dramatic, but not too expensive—that's how Payal Khandwala describes her line of designer wear. "It was a collection I designed to keeping my own tastes in mind. When I was getting married, I had a tough time finding something that I wanted to wear. Everything seemed too heavy. I'm quite petite and I don't like heavy *dupattas* to weigh me down," says the designer. Eventually, she wore a reworked, second-hand Banarasi *lehenga* she found in Pune, but for brides who share her opinion, Khandwala's Colaba store, with its limited collection of gorgeous *lehengas*, pants, dresses and coats made of handcrafted brocade is the place to run to. In love with Banarasi silks, Khandwala is partial to the weavers of the region, but also uses textiles from Bhagalpur and Bengal. "Banarasi weaves might be the latest rage now, but I've always had a soft spot for them. Their weaves are so intricate and yet so soft. While there is a cultural reference, they don't feel geographically specific and could really be worn anywhere," she says.

Khandwala's creations are a unique combination of traditional and contemporary. The best thing about the line, says Khandwala, is that it is practical and comfortable. "I've worn my wedding *lehenga* at least seven or eight times since then. It's just a big skirt and can even be worn with a *ganji*," she says. In the process of designing jewellery in brass modeled on vintage pieces she has picked up in Morocco and Istanbul, Khandwala hopes to add these to her collection by December. **Contact** 7/24, First Floor Grants Building, 17 Arthur Bunder Road, Radio Club Road, Colaba; 22836707 **Cost** Rs 8,000 to Rs 75,000





Divyanshu Asopa,  
founder, 21 Fools



## GREEN CARD

Divyanshu  
Asopa, 28  
21 Fools

**W**hy stop at using handmade paper for eco-friendly wedding invitations, when you can encourage your guests to go green too? Divyanshu Asopa, who has been selling seed paper products for the past year, is in the process of creating wedding cards that can be potted to grow into plants.

"I began to notice how much paper was being wasted at offices and printing presses. Seed paper, which was quite popular overseas, seemed like the perfect solution," says Asopa. Originally from Jaipur, Asopa began working with Kalpana Handmade Paper in the Rajasthani capital to manufacture the paper made from waste

cotton last year. "As far as I know, that's the only place in the country that manufactures seed paper currently," he says.

Already designing and printing products including cards, calendars and bookmarks for corporate clients, Asopa hopes to add wedding cards to his list this year. "We are working on the design concepts. I have to be part of the entire process because it can be quite challenging to print on the seed paper. That is also why I'd rather not sell sheets of the paper but finished products instead," he reveals.

Contact [21fools.com](http://21fools.com)

Cost Rs 100 approximately per piece



## TECH SAVVY

**Yash Sanghvi, 24**  
*Socialive*

If wedding websites have been popular among brides and grooms, Yash Sanghvi hopes to take the trend one step further by creating an app for your big day.

Sanghvi set up his social media company, FYA (initially known as For Your Assistance), as a 21-year-old fresh off the boat after a Masters in the UK. "I began creating apps in 2014, but soon realised it was expensive for customers," says the young entrepreneur. In a bid to bring the cost down, he came up with the concept he called Socialive, which is a perishable app that deletes itself in a month. It can be created within 48 hours and go live in 20 days. "These features make it ideal as a wedding app and that's how I first visualised it," he adds.

Completely customisable, the app can be named according to the wedding party's choice and include an internal chat to make it easy for guests to communicate with each other, a detailed itinerary, reminders for events, Google map locations, important contact numbers for drivers and co-ordinators and even a platform to leave messages for the couple in question. "For those who'd like to share photos on the app, that is possible too," he explains. Sanghvi, who believes websites can be quite a waste when it comes to sharing wedding information, is certain his app will prove more practical. Already 65 apps down, Sanghvi hopes to create a lot more in this season.

**Contact** [fyagroup.com](http://fyagroup.com)

**Cost** Rs 25,000 approximately

Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR



Yash Sanghvi, founder, FYA





Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR

## PICTURE PERFECT

**Anand Rath, 30**  
*Reels and Frames*

It might have been hard not to notice the themed photo booths at every other wedding you attended last season. This year, if Anand Rath has his way, the booths won't merely serve as frames for taking stills photos but will also house a camera that captures videos.

"We'll get guests to dance, open a bottle of champagne, pop some confetti. It will be relayed outside the booth for people to watch in slow motion and later we will combine the shots to give them a Honey Singh-like music video," says Rath, who will be using an ultra-high speed camera to capture the videos in slow motion. The concept came from the thought that the entire gang of family and friends

should be a part of the pre-wedding videos that have become so popular with couples. "Pre-wedding stills have been around, but this year couples are keen on shooting a pre-wedding video as well," says the photographer, who has also had composers and lyricists create songs especially for the videos.

Apart from shooting in slow motion, Rath often uses drones and robotic cameras. "The best part about my videos, though, remains the amount of personalisation that goes into their creation. I make sure I know all of their stories and spend time with them before we begin shooting," he adds.

**Contact** [reelsandframes.in](http://reelsandframes.in)

**Cost** Rs 2 lakh per day



POWER YOUR BRANDS WITH

INDIA TODAY

**SIMPLY MUMBAI**

**TO ADVERTISE CONTACT**  
Jignesh Khemani: 9821901992  
Saleh Abedin: 9820326555





# EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

# 5



## 1 GIG OF THE GREATS

→ **DECEMBER 12 TO 13**

Johnnie Walker - The Journey is back for its third edition with a line-up of internationally-renowned musicians and theatre artistes, performing for the first time in India. Record producer Giorgio Moroder, a Grammy and Oscar winning Electronic Trailblazer, audio-visual pioneer in ambient music, Tycho and instrumental rock band, Explosions in the Sky. The line-up also includes Leo, a mind-bending physical theatre act.

**AT** Mehboob Studio, Bandra West

**TICKETS** [bookmyshow.com](http://bookmyshow.com)

**TIMINGS** 4.00 p.m. onwards

**PREVIEW / SAMA'A: THE MYSTIC ECSTASY**

## 2 Whirling in fire

→ **NOVEMBER 20 TO 22**

In its seventh year now, NCPA's Sama'a: The Mystic Ecstasy - Festival of Sufi Music is back with performances from Javed Ali, Hemant Chauhan and Satyasheel Deshpande.

Turkish-born Austrian dancer Ziya Azazi will be presenting two concepts, Bolero in Preview and Ember. Ember has the artiste whirling around a live fire, meant to represent a sense of desperation and struggle. He is presenting Bolero in Preview, his latest project, for the first time in India at Sama'a.

The piece is inspired by Maurice Bejart's work, something Azazi has been watching since his early years, and is a collaborative effort with musician Claudio Bettinelli. Thrilled to be per-

forming in India again, Azazi claims the country is one of his favourites and the NCPA, he says, is like home.

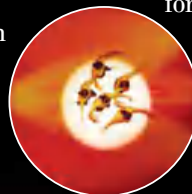
**Bolero in Preview**

Jamshed Bhabha Theatre on November 21 at 6.00 p.m.

**Ember by Ziya Azazi**

Open Air Plaza on November 21 at 7.30 p.m.

**Call** 66223724 or 66223754 to book tickets







### 3 SHAKESPEARE REHASHED

→ **DECEMBER 17 TO 18**

Filter Theatre's acclaimed Twelfth Night is a fresh, unconventional and interactive experience with the feel of an intimate, rock gig. Filter Theatre, led by actors Oliver Dimsdale, Ferdy Roberts, and musician Tim Phillips, is a bold and innovative British theatre company and their renewed version of Shakespeare is aimed at the 21st century audience, showcasing the madness of love in this heady world, where riotous gig meets Shakespeare.

**AT** Phoenix Mills Compound

**DETAILS** [britishcouncil.in](http://britishcouncil.in)

### 4 KEEPING IT CLASSICAL

→ **NOVEMBER 21 ONWARDS**

Music festival Palava Tarang, organised by Lodha, brings together 15 noted Indian classical musicians such as sitar player Buddhaditya Mukherjee, santoor maestro Pandit Satish Vyas, tabla player Anindo Chatterjee and flautist and vocalist Hariprasad Chaurasia. The eight-week long festival will also celebrate dance and theatre by offering a platform to renowned performers.

**At** Lodha Palava City, Kalyan-Shilphata Road

**Tickets** Rs 200 to Rs 1,800; [bookmyshow.com](http://bookmyshow.com)



### 5 PARTY IN THE PARK

→ **NOVEMBER 14 TO 15**

The Eden ArtFest, in its second edition this year, has become a sort of oasis in the midst of an urban sprawl. The festival will include an impressive line-up of international as well as Indian musicians, including dOP, Aquarius Heaven, Mayaan Nidam, MadBoyMink, B.L.O.T, Big City Harmonics and Bullzeye. But the festival includes a carefully curated market including forty unique brands and a host of yoginis conducting a pre-yoga movement session followed by the morning dance party.

**At** Tote on the Turf, Mahalaxmi Race Course **Details** [insider.in/event/eden-festival](http://insider.in/event/eden-festival)





# Memories from a paradise lost

KIRAN KOHLI NARAIN TELLS HER TALE OF A LOST KASHMIR IN HER DEBUT NOVEL, *KASHMIR: THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE*

By MOEENA HALIM

**B**orn in the verdant Baramulla district, Kiran Kohli Narain grew up in a wisteria-covered bungalow, set against the “backdrop of rolling hills and a mountain stream leaved with ferns and watercress” gurgling in front of it. Although, she and her family including five older sisters lost this home during the brutal Kabaili raid of 1947, it is her fond memories of her early childhood here that allows 74-year-old Narain to skip the viciousness, avoid judgments and relay her bitter-sweet story with an almost child-like approach in her debut novel, *Kashmir: The Loss of Innocence*.

It was her father, and the kind of person he was, that really shaped her childhood. “It didn’t matter to him whether we were boys or girls. When most relatives encouraged him to remarry so his new wife could give him a son, he refused point blank. But that didn’t stop us from cooking up stories about an imaginary stepmother and what we’d do with her if she did come one day. We sisters would scheme and plot,” laughs the author, the mischief still glinting in her eyes.

Narain’s book of memories, although a poignant tale of the six daughters of the fiercely progressive Prem Nath Kohli, who even encouraged one of his daughters to attend an all-boys college, also tells the tale of a truly multicultural Kashmir—something that seems unthinkable to us now, even decades after the exodus of 1990.

“It is for my granddaughter Ambika that I have put all of this down in black and white. She’s never had the chance to really experience Kashmir. She said to me, ‘Nani, why don’t you write about it?’ That motivated me,” reveals Narain.

In 2014, she did return to her homeland after 25 years and she took Ambika along with her. “I couldn’t show her the happy joint family-type Kashmir that I had known, but at least she witnessed the natural beauty,” she says.

When she talks about a cathartic return home in the novel, it isn’t this story she begins with, but that of her nephew actor Sanjay Suri and his return to the Valley for the first time since his father was killed in August 1990.

“The game was the same but the players had changed. The chinars were there but the leaves had changed,” says Suri, who at the launch ceremony of the book did admit to having felt a sense of hatred before he came across the naïve ignorance of a 16-year-old Kashmiri boy and had an emotional, unexpected reunion with people who remembered his father.

For Narain, only a sense of longing remains. A yearning for the only permanent homeland she knew and the happy times she spent there.

*Kashmir: The Loss of Innocence; Rs 590*





# TRACKING TEA IN THE CITY

HERE ARE THREE NEW TEA HOUSES THAT ARE LIKELY TO CHANGE THE GAME FOR CHAI IN THE CITY

By MOEENA HALIM

Mumbai is dotted with tea stalls at every nook and cranny. Most tea lovers have a favourite *chai tapri* selling their version of a strongly brewed, specially spiced, milky tea. But of late, tea is finding an exclusive space in lounges and bistros too. One of the first tea houses in the city, The Tea Centre in Churchgate, remains quite a favourite among those in South Mumbai, and the XVII Tea Room in Bandra is fast gaining popularity. Here are three of the latest tea houses in the city.

## ► TAJ MAHAL TEA HOUSE, Bandra

Housed in a gorgeous little bungalow in Bandra, this bistro is a wonderful place to spend your free time even if you're not a big fan of tea. Quite literally a 'tea house', the rooms in the original bungalow have been maintained to

serve different purposes for guests—sit in the morning room to enjoy the early rays of the sun or the music room to be treated to some classical tunes. Once a month, they even host live music sessions here for small groups to enjoy. Serving teas from all over the world, the menu is dominated by HUL's own desi blends. The Parsi Mint Tea goes well with the fluffy omlette. The caramel-sweetened Goan Bliss is to be paired with the Belgian waffles. The cold teas

(Above) Interiors of Taj Mahal Tea House; (below) Red Zen Tea at Tea Trails



seem a bit heavy on the artificial flavours, but the tranquility of the place could quite easily cancel this out.

## ► CHAAYOS, Bandra Reclamation

If there was to be just one reason we'd want to return to Chaayos, it would be their innovatively flavoured Aam Papad Chai. The unusual tea is just one of the experimental teas the IIT duo Raghav Verma and Nitin Saluja are serving at their café—a Delhi import they hope to set up across the city. Here, you are encouraged to customise your tea according to your taste. Twelve different spices and add-on flavours are offered including ginger, cinnamon, tulsi, mint, cardamom, pepper, and asafetida.

## ► TEA TRAILS, various locations

Co-founder Kavita Mathur has been travelling extensively through the tea-drinking world for a few years now and everything she has on the menu has been handpicked after tasting thousands of teas. Keen on introducing the Japanese Matcha tea, here the strong grassy flavoured tea is served as a milk shake. There might not be too much in terms of ambience, but it's their international brews that are the real experience here. The delicate white Silver Needle tea, the Tisane, or the Smoky Chinese Lapsang Souchong are all must-tries.

INDIA  
TODAY

A MONTHLY CITY MAGAZINE

# SIMPLY PUNE

## BEAUTY AND THE BRIDE

OUR GUIDE TO THE  
LATEST WEDDING  
FASHION TRENDS

HARSHITA CHATTERJEE  
DESHPANDE, DESIGNER





**Editor-in-Chief**

Aroon Purie

**Group Chief Executive Officer**

Ashish Bagga

**Group Editorial Director**

Raj Chengappa

**Editor-at-large**

Kaveri Bamzai

**Editorial Team**

Rewati Rau, Kavyanjali Kaushik

**Photo Department**

Vikram Sharma

**Photo Researchers**

Prabhakar Tiwari, Satish Kaushik

**Art Director**

Jyoti Singh

**Design**Vikas Verma,  
Bhoomesh Dutt Sharma**Production**Harish Aggarwal (Chief of Production),  
Naveen Gupta, Vijay Sharma**Layout Execution**Ramesh Kumar Gusain,  
Pradeep Singh Bhandari**Group Business Head**

Manoj Sharma

**Associate Publisher (Impact)**

Anil Fernandes

**IMPACT TEAM**

Senior General Manager:

Jitendra Lad (West)

General Managers:

Upendra Singh (Bangalore);

Velu Balasubramaniam (Chennai)

Deputy General Manager:

Kaushiki Chakraborty (East)



Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR

**COVER STORY****Wedding Wizards****s-4**

SIMPLY PUNE speaks to city designers and finds out trends wedding season.

**CITY BUZZ****In The City****s-10**

Top events to look forward to this month.

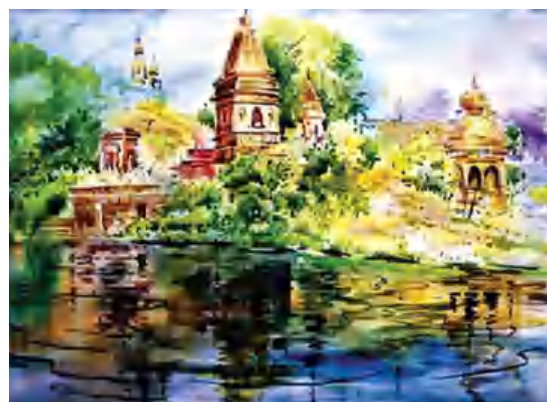
Cover photo by Mandar Deodhar

**OUR PICK** of the month**Close To Nature****November 1 to 21**

Aarti Das is a self taught artist who has been painting in multiple mediums like water colour, acrylic and oil. She believes that art plays a therapeutic role by reinvigorating the mind. She has exhibited her work in Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru and will be bringing her artwork to Pune in November. The theme of the exhibition revolves around nature's different moods and each painting has been painted on the spot.

At Bliss Art Gallery, Vimal Kunj Society, North Main Road, Koregaon Park

Timings 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.



Want to tell us about an event? A new store? A restaurant? People doing interesting things? Anything newsworthy? Please email us at: [simplypune@intoday.com](mailto:simplypune@intoday.com)

# Be smart. Save 40% Subscribe now!

When it comes to news reportage and analysis, India's leading English magazine has no equal. Subscribe to get it delivered to your doorstep every week.



## YES! I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE TO INDIA TODAY.

Please tick your subscription choice and send the form to: **We Care, India Today, A-61, Sector 57, Noida - 201301, (U.P.), India**

TICK	TERM	NO. OF ISSUES	COVER PRICE (₹.)	YOU PAY (₹.)	SAVINGS
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 years	260	10400	6200	40%
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 years	156	6240	4000	36%
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 year	52	2080	1560	25%

BEST OFFER

INDIA  
TODAY

Please fill the form in CAPITAL LETTERS

I am enclosing Cheque/DD No.: \_\_\_\_\_ dated: \_\_\_\_\_ drawn on (specify bank): \_\_\_\_\_

favouring Living Media India Limited for ₹. \_\_\_\_\_ [Add ₹. 50/- for non Delhi cheques, Not valid in case of At Par Cheques]

Or, Please charge my Credit Card ☐ ☐ ☐ Card No.

Card Member's Name                 Card Expiry Date: M \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_

Card Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: D \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Pin: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph (Res.): \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

YOU MAY ALSO SUBSCRIBE THROUGH



SMS  
ITE to 52424



CALL us on Toll Free No. 18001800100  
and (0120) 2479900



E-MAIL  
wecare@intoday.com



LOG ON TO  
www.indiatoday.in/subscribe





Designer  
Harshita Chatterjee Deshpande

Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR

# Wedding Wizards

FROM PAITHANI *LEHENGAS* FOR BRIDES TO CROP TOPS IN CUSTOMISED DIGITAL PRINTS FOR GUESTS, WEDDING FASHION IS GETTING A QUIRKY TWIST THIS SEASON

By ADITI PAI

## TWEAKING TRADITIONAL

Harshita Chatterjee Deshpande



**E**ver imagined fashioning the Paithani trousseau must-have for Maharashtrian brides into a smart *lehenga*? That's exactly what designer Harshita Chatterjee Deshpande, 26, has created this season—blending traditional weaves with smart contemporary silhouettes. The focus is on traditional Indian zari weaves, which have taken a modern avatar at Mairah, Deshpande's multi-designer luxury fashion store. "Wear a Paithani *lehenga* which doesn't weigh 20 kg but still has the richness, old-world charm and intricate detail worthy of the occasion," she says.

**Old is Gold** From classic woven silks to jewellery, it's all about the traditional look. "We're going back to our roots and expressing ourselves in pure cultural and ancestral versions of traditional

bridal wear in terms of fabrics and colours," says the designer, who has been winning admirers with her innovative collections at various fashion weeks. A must-have, she says, is the *nath*, the iconic nose ring that every Maharashtrian bride dons. "No matter what she wears, she's incomplete without the *nath*," says Deshpande.

**Pick the Palette** Pick shades that flatter—pink, red and yellow—and refract light off the Indian skin tone. "You can never go wrong with shades of these," says Deshpande, who has introduced a fashion scholarship fund to encourage budding talent in Pune by offering guidance on the business and marketing of fashion.

**Contact** [jivacouture.com/designers/harshita-chatterjee-deshpande](http://jivacouture.com/designers/harshita-chatterjee-deshpande)



A creation by  
Nivedita Saboo



## ETHNIC WEDS MODERN

Nivedita Saboo

**E**ast meets West in Nivedita Saboo's wedding collection with pre-draped concept saris, straight cut embellished suits paired with palazzos for a daytime do and glamorous gowns for the evening bash. "Choose bright, happy and traditional colours that reflect the mood aptly," says the 35-year-old. There are ample options for men as well—bespoke jackets that can be paired with a shirt and trousers or a more traditional ensemble like a kurta and slim pants.

**Velvet Style** Winters call for rich fabrics like silk organza and luxurious velvet, so throw on an embroidered organza dupatta or slip into an embellished *lehenga* in organza for a dramatic look. Velvet is trending too. "It has an incomparable fall and looks magnificent in Indian wear. Even men can go for velvet tuxedos, in marsala, navy and black," says Saboo.

**Pastel Palette** If the wedding day calls for traditional crimson and green, frosty light pastels are the go-to hues for the pre-nuptials. Saboo's studio is flooded with ice blue, crushed strawberry, mint greens and midnight blues and teals—the colours of the season. Jazz it up with three dimensional *dabka* work, *gotta patti* or beads to create a head-turning outfit.

**Contact** [reach@niveditasaboo.com](mailto:reach@niveditasaboo.com)







Trishla (left) and  
Varsha Talera

Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR



## CHIC STYLE

### Varsha and Trishla Talera

**C**orals and golden yellow, colours that “photograph beautifully”, dominate the wedding collection at the plush Varsha Talera Studio in Camp that specialises in bespoke bridal fashion. “Pair a smart playful *lehenga* or palazzos with an embellished flowy top; they are always a success,” says Trishla Talera, 25, creative director of the studio that’s recently launched the Guldasta collection which is heavy on delicate florals.

**Out of the Box** Don’t stick to the wedding staples of saris and *lehengas*. Make heads turn with a draped *dhoti* skirt paired with a delicately embroidered jacket. It’s an outfit that’s been selling fast at their studio. “People are looking at evolved fashion

traditions with a focus on natural and handmade but with a play on silhouette pairings,” says Trishla.

**Mix-n-Match** How often can you repeat wedding wear? Instead of packing away the heavy outfits, the mother-daughter duo urges shoppers to choose outfits that can be reused for multiple occasions. “You can re-use wedding *lehengas* with a silk jacket or pair your heavy *dupatta* with an elegant anarkali for another wedding. Buy pieces that can be mixed and matched later as well,” says Trishla. While accessorising, pick any one piece that become the focal point—statement earrings, a funky *maangtika* or a chunky neckpiece.

**Contact** [contact@varshatalera.com](mailto:contact@varshatalera.com), 9767006400





Uzma Poonawala



## QUIRK AND KITSCH

Uzma Poonawala

**S**mart jumpsuits and palazzos with drapes and skirts with crop tops—that's Uzma Poonawala's wardrobe advice for this wedding season. With destination weddings taking the celebrations to beachside resorts and charming palaces, you can experiment with sharp silhouettes in western wear and pair them with Indian jewellery to design a look that stands out. "Quirky is in this season. Dress up a jumpsuit with a Dior or a Balmain stole to add that extra oomph to stand out for a *mehendi* brunch or a cocktail dinner," says the designer and the brain behind Cherry Crush, which organises exhibitions of luxury fashion. It began in 2010 as her take on a flea market that she had shopped at in Miami.

**Out of the Box** Mix and match is the style advice that 31-year-old Poonawala doles out. So, you can throw on a jacket over a crop top and skirt to give it a new spin or simply replace the jacket of a heavy *lehenga* with a well draped light dupatta and transform it into a sari-style outfit. She recommends printed palazzos with a georgette kurta, a rather unconventional pick for a wedding. "It's very comfortable and can easily be transformed from a day to evening affair with the right accessories and hairdo," she explains. So, if you're wearing it for a *sangeet* or *mehendi* evening, add a *maangtika*. To make heads turn at the reception, dress it up with a heavy *dupatta* and opt for a formal tie-up hairdo.

**Printed On** Bold and bespoke digital prints are in this year. "Families of the couple are even designing clothes in a customised print to mark the occasion," she says.

**Contact** [facebook.com/cherrycrush-closetonthego](https://www.facebook.com/cherrycrush-closetonthego)





## BACK TO BASICS

June Biswas

**N**o matter what the season's trends are, the all-time classics never go out of fashion, especially traditional weaves on silk. If you're among those who prefer traditional charm over contemporary trends, then go for a Benarasi sari look that fashion blogger June Biswas, 28, recommends. "The Benarasi silk sari is something that surpasses all trends," she says. It's the way you drape that makes all the difference, so pair it with an unconventional blouse or wear it in a Gujarat drape style.

**Adorn and Admire** Be it an ethnic look or a contemporary style with western silhouettes, jewellery is a must for a wedding. Make sure you match your jewellery pieces with the outfit. So, if there's gold embroidery on your clothes, avoid wearing platinum or white metal jewellery pieces. "Nose rings add to the beauty of traditional fabrics and incidentally, they are also in fashion," says Biswas.

**Colour Quotient** Earthy hues fit in well with the autumn-winter time but if it's a brunch or a day time event, then go for light colours with delicate embroidery. Evening functions are a good time to bring out the darker hues and showcase zardozi, mirror and other heavy embellishments. "Remember not to upstage the bride; avoid dramatic necklaces and earrings especially for day functions," says Biswas.

**Contact** [junewantsitall.in](mailto:junewantsitall.in)

Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR

June Biswas

Give your brand  
an upper edge...

INDIA  
TODAY  
**SIMPLY PUNE**

TO ADVERTISE CONTACT:-

RANJIT SURESH NARSE • 9822656506 • [ranjit.narse@intoday.com](mailto:ranjit.narse@intoday.com)

Saloni Maharaj • 9657707791 • [saloni.maharaj@intoday.com](mailto:saloni.maharaj@intoday.com)

Monica Jedhe • 9822175124 • [monica.jedhe@intoday.com](mailto:monica.jedhe@intoday.com)

पुणे जंक्शन  
PUNE JUNCTION







## MEET THE STARS

**November 23 to 29**

As a part of the Star Wars extravaganza this month, Darth Vader from the popular franchise will be visiting Pune for the very first time. Star Wars fans can head to the Inorbit mall for sessions at the Jedi Training Academy where you can learn the Jedi way of combat with light sabers and robes.

**At** Inorbit Mall, Wadgaon Sheri, Pune Nagar Road

## LIVE IN CONCERT

**November 14**

**E**nd the Diwali festivities with some heady music and dancing and gear up for the year-end celebrations as Badshah comes to town. The rapper is known for his foot-tapping Bollywood numbers like *Saturday Saturday*, *DJ Waley Babu* and *Aaj Raat Ka Scene* and has been making waves at the party circuit in the country. He will be enthralling Pune with his catchy lyrics that are a mix of rap and traditional Punjabi mixed with club house beats.

**AT** Showtime Arena at Balkrishna Lawns, 92/10B, Next to Yash Petroleum (B.P), Mundhwa-Pune Road, Mundhwa

**DETAILS** 9860056230





Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR

**RESTAURANTREVIEW / 212 ALL DAY CAFÉ AND BAR**

# EAT ALL DAY



ith 212 All Day Café and Bar, Pune gets a brand new destination for great food and also a breakfast menu—with eggs, French toast and waffles—that you can order all day long.

The café and bar has been interestingly named after the area code of Manhattan, considered a mecca for food lovers all around the world. The décor is chic with light wooden furniture, an alfresco section that reminds you of European bistros that will be a draw in the upcoming winter months. A feature that stands out is the giant 212 written in green and black faux eggs placed in faux egg holders.

The 'small plates' offerings are great to munch on. Go for the signature 212 cheese cigarillos, a gently flavoured garlic foccacia or the crab cake.

If you're looking for something healthy to bite into, go to the salads which has a cooling watermelon and goats cheese, an arugula and feta that go well with the Mexican tomato and bean soup, one of the highlights of the menu.

For those who don't mind the calories, they have thin crust pizzas and large burgers. An interesting innovation that's sure to charm the health watchers is the no carb spaghetti and a flourless chocolate cake to end the meal with.

**Meal for Two Rs 1000 excluding taxes**  
**At G-53 Phoenix Market City, Nagar Road**  
**Tel 01724003844**

■ **By Aditi Pai**

Photograph by M ZHAZO







NEW IN TOWN / THE HOME SUKH BY ISHANYA

# Home Comforts

**I**SHANYA, Pune's home décor, interiors and lifestyle store recently launched The Home Sukh as a marketplace for home décor and gifting. The Home Sukh is spread over 20,000 sq ft and two levels and boasts of an impressive line-up of 30 curated brands offering more than ten thousand products that range from artifacts, décor lighting, furnishings, other accessories and gifting items. Some of the brands featuring at The Home Sukh are Tangerine Tree, Clay Craft, Timber Tech, Jewel Krafts, El Papel De Mano, Hot Mugs, Kagzi, Bonita, Fos Lighting, Ramson, 360 degree, Bean Store, Art Hut, Ethnic Roots and Gifts & Souvenirs among others.

"The Home Sukh is a concept which brings to life the adage of little things that provide big joys. It addresses a homemaker's desire of keeping her home vibrant, lively and adaptable for different reasons and occasions," says Mahesh M, the CEO of ISHANYA. "With rising incomes, increasing purchasing power, brand consciousness, evolving consumer preferences and growing urbanization, we believe that we have tremendous potential in Pune," he adds.

The store also stores many artifacts that are hard to find in other home décor shops. Take for example, a tripod lamp that will lend an ethereal glow to your house. For the ecologically conscious, there are gifting options made from paper that have been produced by



The Home Sukh is the largest marketplace for home décor in India

a local community of paper workers. What is exciting about this lifestyle venture is that it will also house an interesting array of popular home and interiors and fine dining brands like 11 East Street Cafe, Mezzanine at

PubTown and Sheetal Arch & Banquets with the iconic blueFROG and Pump Room that is all set to pump its state of the art brewery shortly.

**Price** Rs 100 onwards

**At** ISHANYA, Airport Road, Yerwada  
**Tel** 40004000



NEW IN TOWN / MAHARANI BAUG

## Dress Like A Queen

**W**ant to dress like a queen? Aditi Shrivastava, 28, can help you pick the right jewellery and accessories. Her online jewellery store, Maharani Baug, retails a line of chunky, antique white metal jewellery carefully curated and tweaked by Shrivastava. "In the earlier days, only royalty could afford to wear real gems. The working classes used to wear white metal, an alloy that doesn't chip and is durable," she explains. In her collection, too, Bharadwaj uses white metal that is affordable, durable and ages well.

The jewellery is inspired by the royalty of the yester-years. She's picked up the pieces from quaint old markets in Rajasthan, Kolkata, Nagaland and even Bhutan. Shrivastava, however, tweaks every piece. So, she took a heavy *kamarband* (waist band) and added a pendant she had bought from Goa to turn it into a long *chandramukhi haar*. "It's about keeping Indian jewellery making traditions alive in times when we go and pick up stuff from a Forever 21 or Accessorize," she says.

With her month-old venture, the MBA from Symbiosis is sure of focusing on Indian crafts and bringing only large statement pieces to her collection. "I am looking into every pocket of India which has a craft tradition and tweaking it to fit into our daily urban lives," she says. So, she recommends a chunky white kamal anklet with skirts to add a dash of glamour just as she ups the formal shirt and trousers look with a smart neckpiece.

At [facebook.com/maharanibaug1](https://facebook.com/maharanibaug1) ■ By Aditi Pai







## BOND OVER BRUNCH

### Every Sunday

With the winter chill setting in, spend a lazy Sunday digging into multi-cuisine fare Eviva, the pretty rooftop lounge at Courtyard by Marriott. The spread is extensive from a salad bar to dim sums, grilled meat and seafood platters. The chefs bring in delicacies like the Burmese Khaw Suey and Nasi Goreng to Nawabi kebabs, wrapped up with a sinful dessert spread.

**Meal for two Rs 2,298 plus taxes**

**At Courtyard by Marriott City Centre,**

**Next to Jehangir Hospital, Bund Garden Road**

**Tel 9545480732**



## SWEET BEGINNINGS

### Every Sunday

City hotels have a new member on the kitchen team for the wedding season—a *halwai*-on-call. Courtyard by Marriott Pune Chakan has roped in Agra-based Bhagwandas who comes with years of experience at the Haldiram's chain to churn out wedding favourites like his signature *anjeer akhrot ka halwa*, *malpuas* and *jalebis*.

The sweetmeat maker at the Hyatt Pune is giving traditional sweets a new twist with a menu that includes steamed apple and banana *sandesh* and dry fruit *gujias*.

The wedding menu at Courtyard By Marriott Pune City Centre also has a fusion spread where the hotel's pastry chefs join hands with the halwai to create a baked *gulab jamun* cheesecake, apple *jalebis*, Indian *mithai* trifles and coin sized *jalebis* served innovatively.

**AT Marriot Pune Chakan, Plot P-7, MIDC, Chakan Industrial Area Phase-1, Khalumbre,**

**TEL 666666 AT Marriot Pune City Centre, C.T.S. No. 37 & 37/1, Bund Garden Rd, Sangamvad TEL 67248181**

**AT Hyatt Pune, 88 Nagar Road, Kalyani Nagar TEL 41411234**